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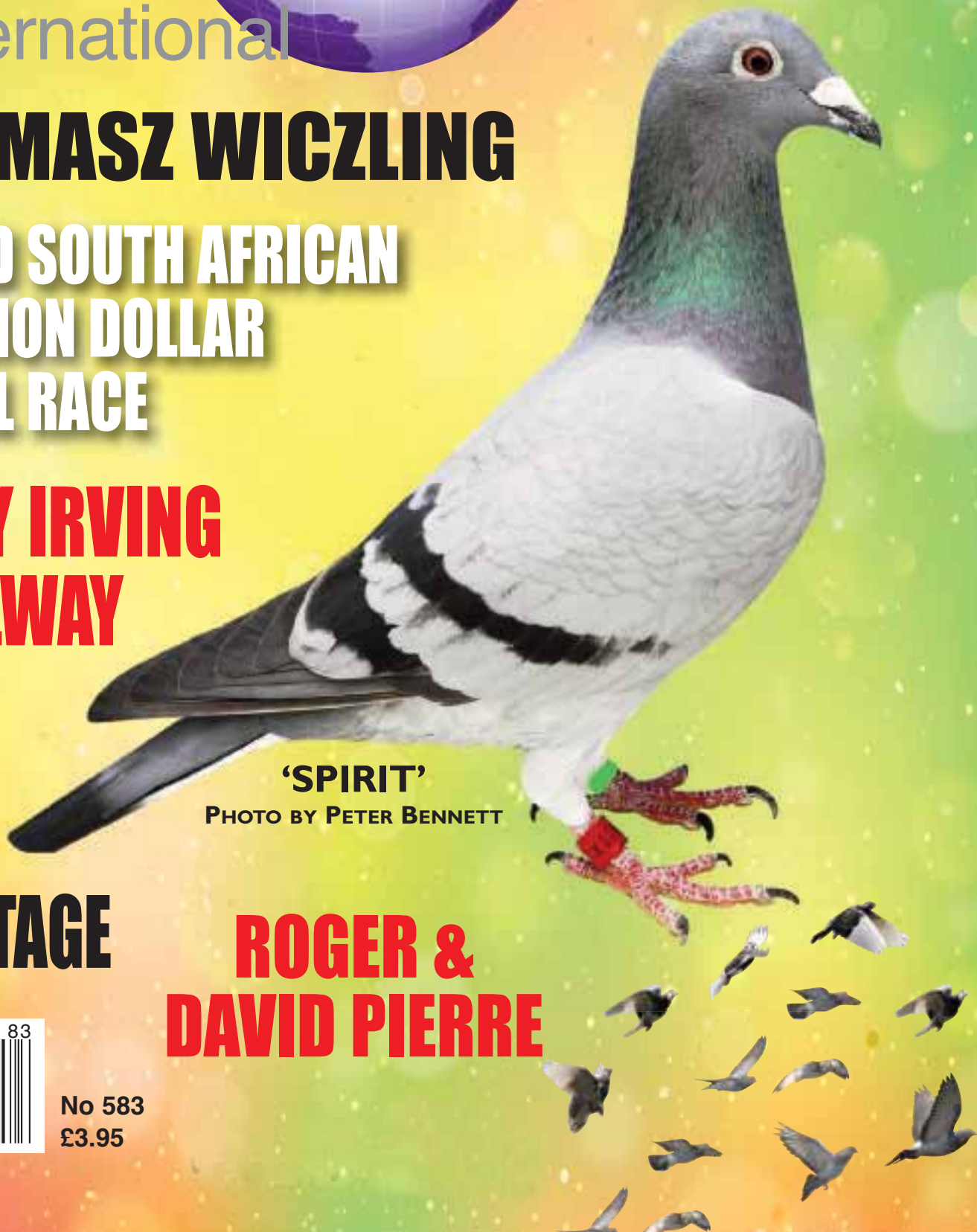
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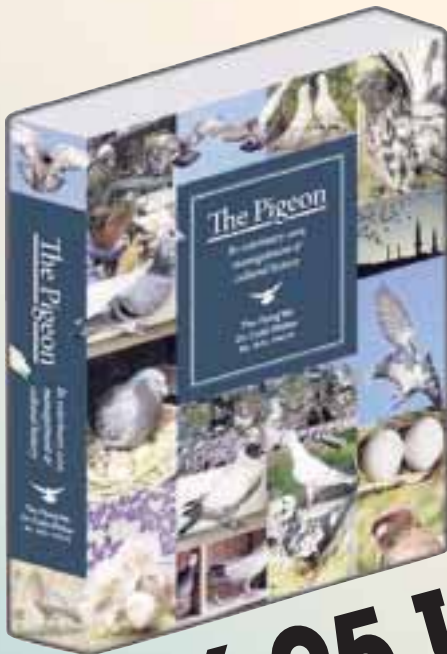
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'SPIRIT'
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Tomasz Wiczling of Poland is renowned by many worldwide as he regularly participates in One Loft races, in this Question and Answer article by Silvia Mattacchione we found out a bit more about Tomasz.

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Roger & David Pierre from Pecrot in Belgium base success on a solid selection of breeders, Jorgi Ferrari takes a look at some of the olympia champions and performances from all distances.



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This article by Billy Wortley continues the ongoing story of Jimmy Irving who bred and raced the famous 'Solway King'.

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In this month's Pictorial, regular feature writer Greg McKnight, continues his work on his fascination with the importance and added advantage of eyesight.

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The South Africa Million Dollar Pigeon race has entered its 23rd Year. Paul Smith, International Race Co-ordinator brings us the prestigious final race report and a list of results.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RACING PIGEON PICTORIAL INTERNATIONAL

I have decided that the Pictorial will now become a Quarterly magazine. This is to ensure that we can continue to produce high quality articles, which have started to become difficult to source. All current subscribers will continue and new or renewed subscription will change to 4 copies per year.

Dates of issues for the next 3 issues:

No 584 – On sale 21st June 2019

No 585 – On sale 27th September 2019

No 586 – On sale 20th December 2019

Email racingpigeon@btconnect.com • website www.racingpigeon.co.uk



by Silvio Mattacchione

Tomasz was born in 1982, and is a resident of the Kashubia region of Poland. Married for two years, with no children Tomasz studies computer sciences.

He came by his interest in pigeons quite naturally as both his uncles arranged to build Tomasz's first loft and then supply him with his first racing pigeons at the tender age of five. It was a long and protracted learning curve that saw him care for fancy pigeons, as well as several varieties of flying pigeons with all of the learning high's and lows.

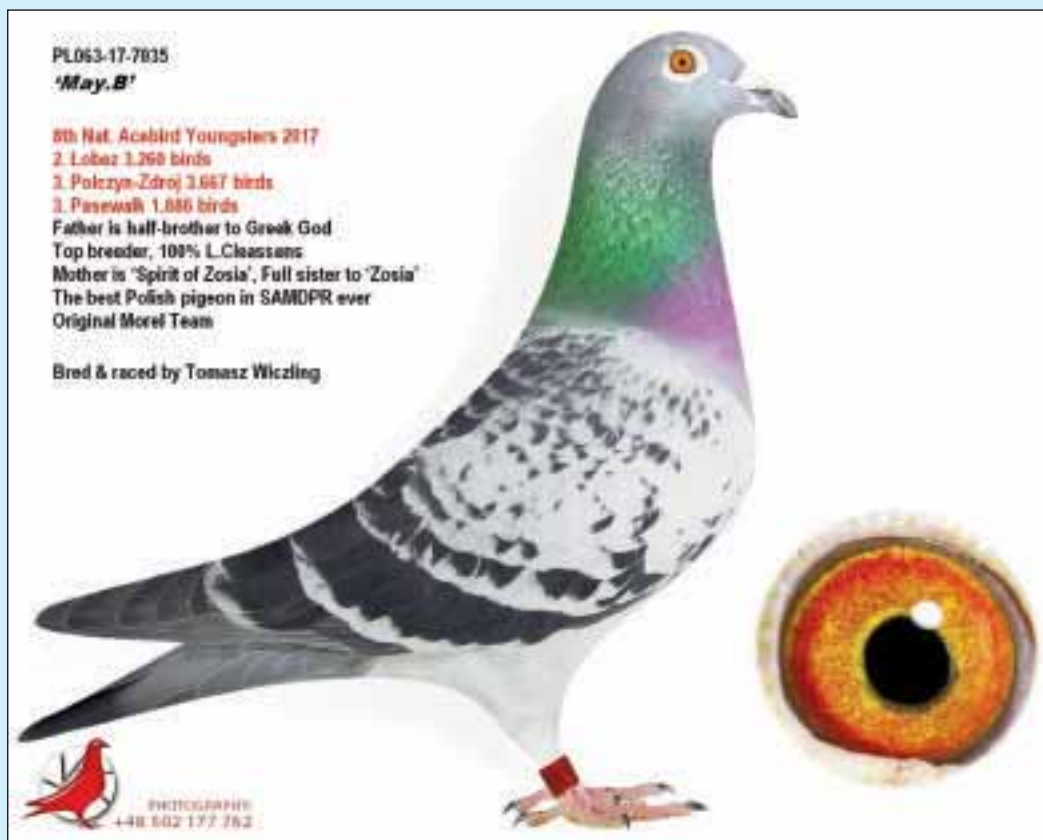
It was in 1995 at the age 13 that he purchased his first official rings and began to focus on the pigeons. It was also during this same period that he struck up friendships with other pigeon fanciers and thus started a serious learning program. By the period 2000-2003 Tomasz stepped up his game again dedicating time, effort and resources all leading to a more professional overall approach and by 2004 Tomasz started actual racing. Programs were tested, birds were tested all to one end and that was "to breed my own strain of top class pigeons".

Tomasz races in club Koscierzyna, which is a part of the Gdansk province. The club is a good sized club

of about 100 members all living in an area of approximately 30x50km, from which about 65-75 actively participate in races. There are 16 active clubs in the province totally some 1,700 members, from which approximately 1,300 actively race pigeons all covering an area of 150x180km (actually one of the biggest provinces in the entire Polish Pigeon Federation).

Besides club racing Tomasz is a fan, actually a great fan of One Loft racing and he participates in One Loft Races all over the world. In last 10 years Tomasz has participated in SAMDPR, China Huixiang Race, Derby Arona, Algarve Golden Race, Belgian Master, Pattaya International Pigeon Race, Victoria Falls World Challenge Pigeon Race, Ostseerennen, Big Andy's One Loft Race, Carnival City Race, Krakus, Ostsee Flug, to mention but a few.

From the period 2008-2009 Tomasz started purchasing serious pigeons from Belgium and Holland. Those years saw Tomasz purchasing birds of the Ludo Claessens strain and was able to purchase a few pure Ludo pigeons. Late 2009 Tomasz purchased the Benny Steveninck racing pigeons, including 'Benny Boy' (BE09-4338676). 'Benny Boy' turned out to be great breeder and



bird from a group of late breeds he kept in an aviary. I chose 'Lucky' and I was indeed very lucky with the choice, as he is one of my top breeders now". – *Tomasz Wiczling*

During 2011 Tomasz was contacted and actually visited Sakis Minovgioudis, owner of the best collection of Ludo Claessens birds anywhere today. During that visit with Sakis in September/October 2011 Tomasz was allowed to handle all of his top birds including a late bred youngster of 'Meeuwke 12', NL11-1733420. Given that this was Tomasz's first visit with Sakis, he refused to allow Tomasz to acquire this late bred given also that it was soon to be

solidified his respect for the Steveninck lines. In 2011 Tomasz purchased two direct children of 'Chipo' and a full sister of 'Gueret' from Benny.

In 2010 he met Ulrich Lemmens, from whom he purchased a daughter of 'Gust' in 2011, after that purchase he was gifted a late youngster, BE11-6327837, which he named 'Lucky 7'.

"Why Lucky?" "Well because during my personal visit to Ulrich's I was allowed by him to choose one

offered on the PIPA auction in 2012. Tomasz was, eventually, the successful bidder in that auction, and in April 2012 NL11-420 arrived in Poland and was renamed 'Greek God'.

The breeding records of 'Greek God' were beyond the wildest dreams of Tomasz. So the colony is mainly based on the lines of Ludo Claessens and Benny Steveninck pigeons.

Tomasz maintains about 25 breeding cocks, about 30-40 breeding hens as well as 20-25 pairs of foster parents. His old bird racing team is comprised of about 60-70 racers, raced on the total Widowhood system. Every year he breeds about 100-150 youngsters for club racing.

Tomasz races both old and young birds. Tomasz's biggest achievements are in the young bird racing. The young bird programme in Poland is quite short actually basically a sprint series.

Old birds are raced on the Widowhood system. The youngsters are raced from perch with Natural or Darkness system, depends on year. Tomasz's focus is on races up to 600km, so sprint and middle distance races.

List of your top race results:

14.08.2011: 6,18,20,20,23,23.../3,160 (30/48)
21.08.2011: 1,2,3,4,21,23,28.../2,428 (26/49)
12.08.2012: 1,1,3,3,5,6,6,6,9,10,11,14,17,23,
25.../2,918 (43/57)
19.08.2012: 3,4,4,4,4,8,8,10,10,10,10,14,14,14,14,14,
19,19.../1.187 (38/52)
05.05.2013: 3,3,6,14,16,17.../2,868 (28/70)





12.05.2013: 1,2,3,4,6,7.../1,548 (33/68)
 19.05.2013: 1,2,3,8,26.../1.519 (20/70)
 21.07.2013: 1,2,3,4,5,14,15.../1.141 (20/37)
 18.08.2013: 2,3,4,5,6,6,8,9,11,11,13,14,16.../1,968
 (26/45)
 11.05.2014: 8,13,14,15,17,20,21,21.../2,392 (23/55)
 31.08.2014: 1,2,5,5,21.../735 (18/48)
 07.09.2014: 1,3,14,17,18,23,24.../2,265 (24/43)
 09.08.2015: 1,6,16,17,30.../1.353 (13/33)
 23.08.2015: 3,4,8,12,12,14,15,22,25,26,29.../1,046
 (21/31)
 30.08.2015: 1,2,3,3,5,6,6,8,10,11,11,15,16.../2,564

(21/30)
 13.08.2016: 5-6-9-10-11-11-11-14-14b-16-16... /3,911
 (40/57)
 20.08.2016: 2-2-4-4-6-6-6-9-9-11-12-13-13... /2,894
 (36/55)
 27.08.2016: 21-22-23-24-26a-26b-28-29-34-41-49...
 /2970 (35/53)
 13.08.2017: 3,4,26,26,30,31,31,31,34,34,36,36,38,38,
 38,38,43,43,45,46,46,49,49,51.../3,667 (56/87)
 20.08.2017: 2,2,4,4,4,8,8,14,15,16,17,17,19,30,31,32,
 32,35.../3,260 (56/85)
 27.08.2017: 2,3,4,4,6,7,7,9,11,11.../2,043 (48/83)





10.09.2017: 1,2,3,3,5,6,7,7,9,9.../1,886 (36/73)
 17.09.2017: 1,2,3,4,4,8,8,8,13,14,17,19,24,28,29,31,
 33, 34,39.../1,779 (38/50)
 02.05.2018: 11,12,13,13,29,34,34,46.../2,727 (21/48)
 06.05.2018: 1,3,4,18,20,21,21,23,52.../3,139 (33/52)
 13.05.2018: 1,8,10,10,16,17,35,47,50,56,58,
 60.../3,133 (34/50)
 20.05.2018: 1,3,6,18,19,20,26,29,36,37,45.../3,113
 (27/46)
 17.06.2018: 1,29,34,44.../1,081 (6/22)
 08.07.2018: 3,6,29,37.../1,574 (16/23)

Percentages of prize cards won from all youngster

aces per 20 (top 5 percent of birds):

2015: 42/179 => 23,46%

2016: 74/285 => 25,96%


2017: 159/453 => 35,10%

Feeding

"In my opinion good fancier must feel, what his birds need in every moment of the season. In last two years I feed with Beyers mixtures (Galaxy Light, Galaxy Energy, Premium Recup), energy mixture I use from Versele-Laga. If we speak about supplements I use from few brands, but mainly Rohnfried whole year. In racing season additionally

Greek God

NL11-1733420




Original Sakis Minovgioudis, top successor of the Claessens strain, son of 'Bonte Beauty' x 'Meeuwke 12'

- Father to winners of	3. prize 321 km - 2.318 b.
1. prize 246 km - 2.265 b.	after loft mates
1. prize 321 km - 2.274 b.	3. prize 515 km - 1.124 b.
1. prize 159 km - 735 b.	5. prize 132 km - 1.078 b.
	after loft mates

Lucky 7

BE11-6327837




Original Ulrich Lemmens, exceptional breeding son of 'Stevia Wonder', super brother of 'Gust'

- Father to winners of	4. prize 515 km - 1.124 b.
1. prize 323 km - 2.318 b.	5. prize 323 km - 2.318 b.
3. prize 515 km - 2.185 b.	he total has children won
4. prize 199 km - 2.720 b.	12x top-10 prize
4. prize 321 km - 2.274 b.	

Daughter Chipo

BE11-4008899



Original Benny Staveninck, directly from legendary breeder 'Chipo', provincial acebird and top breeder

- 'Chipo' is father to at least 24 children winning 1. prize and 3 children crowned as 3.-3.-6. National acebird
 - 'Chipo' is grandfather to
 At least 42 grandchildren winning 1. prize
 1. Nat. acebird great MD YB KBGB 2013

Herbovet and Brockamp products. I believe in not using any medications. I work hard with my pigeons whole year long to keep them healthy, thanks to this I can race full season without using any antibiotics or other medications. Of course if I see that birds are not 100% OK, I do tests and treat if needed, but this is done only once a year, before racing season. Rest of the year they need to be healthy or they need to leave my loft."

Do you vaccinate?

"I do vaccinate my pigeons regularly. When my young birds are 3-4 weeks old they are vaccinated

with PMV and salmonella combine vaccine. The same vaccination is repeated after three weeks or more. Before racing season of young birds, I vaccinate all of them with pox vaccine. After racing season of youngsters, in November I vaccinate ALL my pigeons with PMV and salmonella combine vaccine. ALL means really ALL, breeders, racers, foster parents, all pigeons that reside in my loft. And that's it. So basically youngsters are vaccinated three times for PMV and salmonella in the year of birth and old birds once a year in November (about 3-4 weeks before coupling breeders for winter breed). Do I do regular testing? No, only if I see,

'Sara'

Top racing daughter of Lucky 7

Winner of:

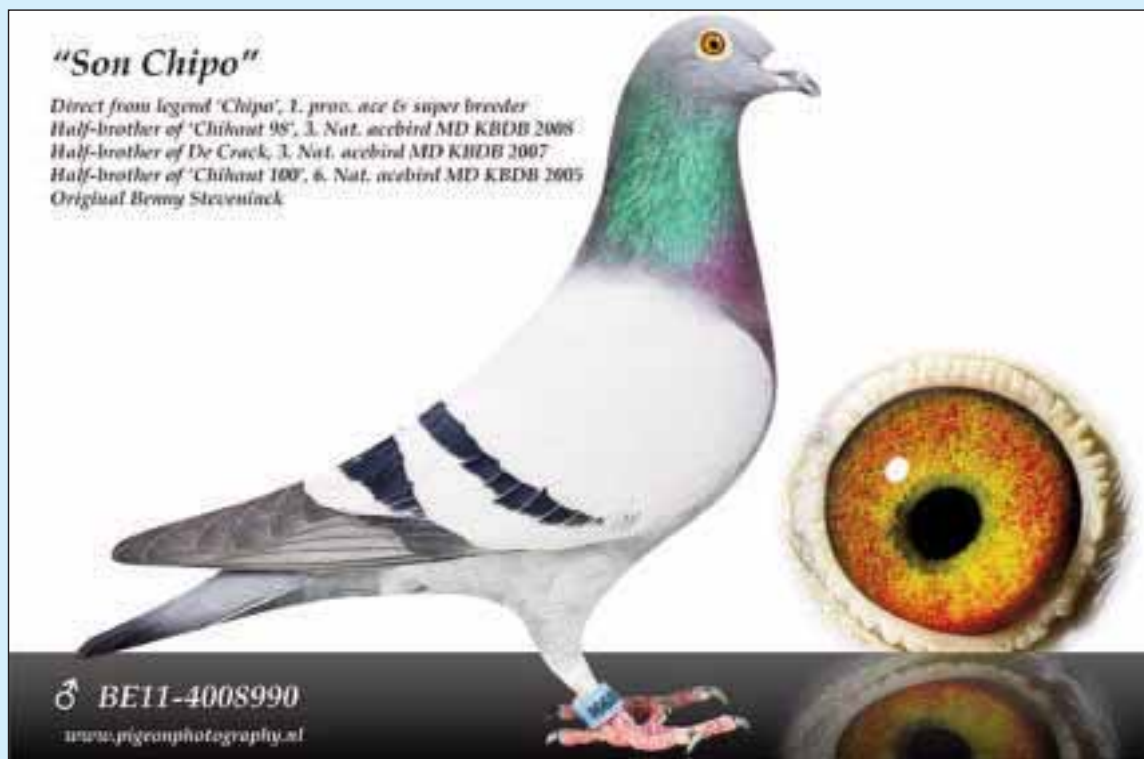
4/2274 - 521km
 4/1124 - 513km
 8/1968 - 132km
 9/1741 - 321km
 11/1367 - 513km etc.

Original Tomasz Winczling



♀ PL063-13-4019

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that something is wrong. I do not undertake preventative treatments. As I mentioned point above, my birds need to be naturally healthy or they need to leave."

What is your training programme?

"Old birds – My old birds do not train in winter around the loft. I start releasing them for practice about 6-7 weeks before start of racing seasons (we have first race at last weekend of April). First week is just starching up. Birds are still on eggs, so not very willing to practice much. After first week of practices I separate sexes & next 2-3 weeks they need to train up to 30-40 minutes twice a day. In last few days of this period I take them for 1-2 tosses from distance of 15-25km. In two weeks from 21 days to first race I try to road train them twice a day to get them fit (distance 30-50km). Last week before the first race is for recuperation, no road trainings, just practice around the loft. In the season I don't train at all or do 1-2 road trainings, depending on race difficulty, birds condition and my perception of their needs.

"Youngsters – My youngsters are orientated as soon

as possible. But till about 4-5 weeks before racing season, that starts mid of August, they are not trained. For the first few weeks/months of their lives they just lay on the roof of lofts and sunbathe. About 6-7 weeks before racing season I start to force them to fly. Aimed practice is 30-40 minutes twice a day. After that I start road trainings. Usually I start from 4km, than 10km, 15km & 20km. Than they do couple of 20km trainings and tree weeks before first race I start tossing twice a day for two weeks. Just like with old birds, last week before first race is for recuperation. In racing season I train my youngsters 2-3 time a week if weather allows, 50km plus 2x22km, Wednesday-Friday, Saturday is basketing day."

Mentors or fanciers that you model from?

I always try to find my own way in pigeons sport and never tried to copy anybody. I visit many top fanciers, listen, what they say and try to adopt it to my own system. In recent years I gained a lot from advises of my friend, Bartosz Morel. His vision of preparations of pigeons to racing season opened my eyes on many aspects, that resulted in much improvement of performance.



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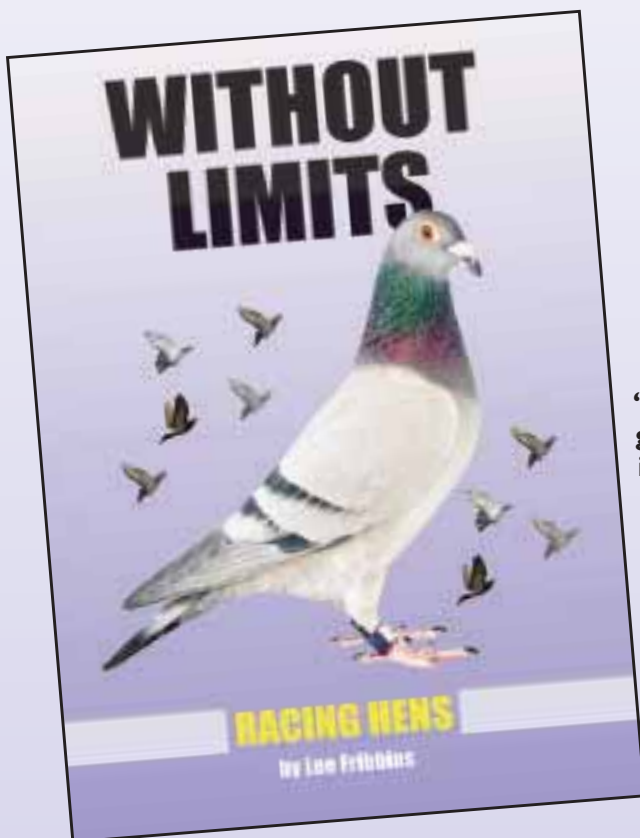
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Lee Fribbins

The first book from Lee Fribbins, Editor of The Racing Pigeon and Pictorial International.

Lee's main interest has always been pigeon management, health and well being. Lee has been manufacturing a successful and natural product range since 1999 marketing a range of vitamin products specifically aimed at the racing pigeon fraternity. This range has been developed over the years and was the inspiration and driving force behind Pigeon Health, UK Animal Products Ltd.

Global newspaper publishing is another aspect of Lee's enterprise where his operation began in 2007 when he became the owner and chief editor of The Racing Pigeon Weekly, first published in 1898 and also The Pictorial International worldwide specialist racing pigeon magazine.

Lee has taken a step back from racing and has found some time to bring some of his diary extracts and his main racing methods for hens in to the book 'Without Limits',

Lee has had some of the best performances in his region with racing hens and has written 'Without Limits' as an honest in depth account of Lee's own diaries and practices to race hens to win.



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DVDs FROM THE RACING PIGEON

Legends of Long Distance Pigeon Racing – **Mr & Mrs Geoff Kirkland**

One of England's top ambassadors in the sport of pigeon racing is Geoff Kirkland. With 11 National wins to his credit to date his performances are outstanding.

Today together with his wife Barbara these modest fanciers continue to win at all distances at the highest level.

In this 2 hour film Geoff talks about his:- Background, Widowhood – hen and cock lofts, Feeding and medication, Young Bird Lofts, Stock Birds.

In this informative and educational film Geoff shares his methods and thoughts that can only help others who wish to succeed in pigeon racing.



Legends of Pigeon Racing – **Frank & George Bristow**

With a lifetimes experience of pigeon racing Frank Bristow is one of Britain's outstanding flyers. Winning from every race point on the North Road including Lerwick. In 2007 Frank also started flying South Road and has swept all before him with outstanding success in the Midland National and local Federations.

To crown 2012, Frank won the John Tranter loft nomination in Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee races run nationally – winning a superb Tranter Loft.

In this DVD Frank tells Richard Green his methods and thoughts on how he manages to win from the first race to the longest race during the racing season.

Frank is one of this sports gentlemen who has set the standard for every fancier to try and achieve.

Subjects covered in this film are:

Breeding, Racing Methods, Training, Sexing Young Birds in the Nest, Loft Management, Feeding Methods plus much more.



Legends of Pigeon Racing – **Mark Gilbert**

Although only a young man Mark Gilbert has already established himself as one of Britain's top international flyers. His many successes include winning an outstanding 1st NFC and 1st International Dax against the very best European pigeon fanciers.

In this film Mark talks frankly of his life with racing pigeons. He explains his family of pigeons, his methods and ideas which help his winning team.



Legends of Pigeon Racing – **Roger J Lowe**

Roger Lowe started his racing pigeon career in 1971 in Reading a hot bed of the best flyers.

Recognised today as Orbital Lofts he is well known all over Europe having won numerous Classic and National races.

In this film Roger explains his systems and methods which has taken him to the top of this sport including breeding, feeding, training, loft management, flying old birds on the Widowhood system and visiting NFC marking station with his birds. Also included is Young Bird Management involving the Darkness and Loft System.



Legends of Long Distance Pigeon Racing – **The Padfield Family**

The Padfield family are one of the most successful long distance pigeon racing enthusiasts from the heart of the Welsh mining country at Cwmtillery in South Wales

Following the success of their father Dave & Vince Padfield have established a family of outstanding quality racing pigeons. Flying to one of the most difficult areas in Great Britain. These fanciers rank amongst the most consistent fliers in Europe.

In this film Dave Padfield explains the history of his family's involvement from their early days in the mining community up to present day as one of the top lofts in the country.

Dave also discusses his Feeding, Breeding, Training, Racing of Old Birds and Young Birds and his Internal Loft Design.



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ROGER & DAVID PIERRE

Pecrot, Belgium



SUCCESS BASED ON A SOLID COLLECTION OF BREEDERS

by Jorgi Ferrari

The town of Pecrot sits in between the city of Leuven in the north and the city Waver in the south, right on the border between Flanders and Wallonia. This town is home to the team of father and son Roger & David Pierre, which have some wonderful results over the years.

There is not a lot to be said about the origins of this breed. It does not always have to be complicated. This pigeon loft is based around some top-tier pigeon breeds, often from Belgium –

Deno-Herbots, Casaert-Senechal, Gaby Vandenabeele, Gaston Van de Wouwer, Erik Limbourg, De Smeyter-Restiaen, etc. By combining these bloodlines, which were often closely inbred, the team ended up winning three Olympiad pigeon titles and a number of ace pigeon titles. These Championship winners were then put together in the breeding loft, where they provided Roger and David with new prize winners. As you know, champions are more likely to breed new champions.

Roger has had quite a career in pigeon racing. The existing pigeon breed

was combined with pigeons from the aforementioned teams, and that is how team Pierre was able to raise the bar over the past several years. The team really started to deliver in 2015, when they claimed not one but two Olympiad titles with Ashley and Shaïna.

**'Ashley' (BE12-1500135):
1st Belgian Olympic
Pigeon Cat D All-round
Budapest 2015.**

**'Shaïna' (BE13-1510623):
1st Belgian Olympic
Pigeon Cat B Demi-Fond
Budapest 2015.**

And they added another Olympiad title to their

OLYMPIC BIRDS

SHAINA
BE13-1510623

- 1st Olympiad Cat B Demi-Fond Budapest 2015
- 1st Racing Pigeon Cat B Demi-Fond 2014
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SHERLEY
BE14-1042012

- 1st Olympiad All-round Cat D Budapest 2017
- 2nd Racing Pigeon Cat D All-round 2016
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- 2nd Racing Pigeon Cat D All-round 2016

ASHLEY
BE12-1500135

- 1st Olympiad Cat D All-round Budapest 2015
- 1st Racing Pigeon Cat D All-round 2014
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SHARINA
112085813

- 1st Racing Pigeon Cat B Demi-Fond 2014
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HERMIONE
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An overview of some of Roger & David Pierre's best pigeons, with their three Olympiad pigeons on the left.



Herbots. Besides having bred 'Ashley', 'Beckham Junior' is also the sire of 'Tardif Jewel', another top class breeding cock in the team of Roger and David. He is in turn the sire of 'Robben' BE07-1503530, 5th National Ace Pigeon Middle Distance KBDB 2010, and as such one of the best pigeons for team Pierre.

Sire 'Beckham Junior' BE06-2094440, a son of 'Beckham', which is in turn a son of top class bird 'Blauwe Bliksem' of Gaby Vandenabeele. Grandfather 'Beckham' BE03-2251134. Grandmother 'M. Jewel' BE00-2318455. In addition, 'Beckham' and 'Jewel' are

2015, 1st Ace Pigeon PIPA Ranking over 7 National races in 2014, and 11th National Ace Pigeon Longer Middle Distance KBDB 2014.

'Ashley' BE12-1500135 is a daughter of that other stock breeder of Roger and David, 'Beckham Junior' BE06-2094440, which originates from Deno-

OLYMPIC BELGIAN PIGEONS BUDAPEST 2015

**1ST OLYMPIC PIGEON CAT. D
ALL ROUND BUDAPEST 2015**

ASHLEY
BE12-1500135

1. "AS DES AS" NATIONAL LCB 2014
1. PIPA RANKING 7 NAT. RACES GMD 2014
11. NAT. ACE FIG. KBDB GMD OB 2014

1. CHATEAUVILLE 603P - 25. NAT. 24067P
1. ARGENTON 1123P - 71. NAT. 19303P
1. LORRE 100P
1. BOURGES 144P - 13. 1 PROV 200P
1. BOISSONS 120P
1. MONTLUÇON 183P - 58. 1 PROV 800P
1. BOURGES 304P - 64. NAT. 2042P

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**1ST OLYMPIC PIGEON CAT. B
MID. DIST. BUDAPEST 2015**

SHAÏNA
BE13-1510623

1. ACE FIG. YEARLINGS R.W. LCB 2014
1. PROV. ACE FIG. KBDB GMD YEARL. 2014
1. PROV. ACE FIG. KBDB GMD YB 2013
12. NAT. ACE FIG. KBDB GMD YB 2013

1. BOURGES 3189P - 4. NAT. 24067P
1. MONTLUÇON 3442P - 2. NAT. Z. 4015P
1. GUERET NAT. 942P
1. ARGENTON 1123P - 71. NAT. 19303P
1. BOISSONS 147P
1. GUERET 82P - 62. NAT. Z. 1908P



Karel Schellens, winner of a 1st National Bourges 7,927 birds. He originates from a pairing of 'Brother National I' x 'Daughter National I'. Grandmother 'Miss Bourges' BE06-4282992. This hen of L Verstraete wins a 5th National Bourges 26,984 birds, and she was an invaluable breeder as well, she is the grandmother of a 29th National Chateauroux, 32nd National Bourges, 36th National Argenton, and 75th National Bourges.

the parents of 'Gina', 1st National Ace Pigeon Middle Distance KBDB 2008, and a full sister of 'Beckham'.

Dam 'Nationale I' BE07-2232668. Besides being the dam of 'Ashley', this

talented hen has also bred 'Angie' (36th National Argenton, 75th National Bourges, 1st Sens 993 birds) and 'Big Mama' (1st Toury 2,732 birds). Grandfather 'Inteelt Nationaal I' BE00-2298433. This cock was inbred to 'Nationaal I' of

'Shaïna'

'Shaïna' was the second Olympiad Pigeon in Roger & David Pierre's pigeon collection. She made a name for herself in Budapest 2015 as 1st Olympiad Pigeon Category B.



Sire 'Adonis' BE07-2156873. 'Adonis' is the sire of 'Kim', 54th National Chateauroux 10,719 birds; 'The 050', 87th National Bourges 33,524 birds, and 'Koka', 11th Bourges 3,002 birds. Grandfather 'Kleine 020' BE96-2167604. 'Kleine 020' of Jean Gochet is the sire of several successful racing birds, including 'Clement', 'Bl Jean' (3x1st Noyon), '600', etc. He is a 100% Verbruggen. Grandmother 'Josée' BE98-2349223. 'Josée' was another 100% Verbruggen pigeon of Jean Gochet that proved to be an excellent breeder.

Dam 'Shakira' BE10-2121930. This black coloured hen is the dam of 'Shaïna', and she also bred 'Özil' (1st Salbris 415 birds, 1st Argenton 159 birds), Sharina (3rd National Zone La Souterraine) and 'The 500' (1st Chateauroux 1,355 birds). Grandfather 'Clyde' BE00-2102040. 'Clyde' (Deno-Herbots) is an excellent racing and breeding bird, and the sire of a 1st and 4th National Argenton. Grandmother 'Willemien' NL07-1821798. Deno-Herbots obtained 'Willemien' from Willem De Bruijn, and this bird has won 4x1st prizes in major races

'Sherley'

'Sherley' is the hen that claimed a 1st Olympiad Pigeon Cat D in Brussels in 2017. She is a 100% Casaert-Senechal pigeon.

Sire 'le 045' BE13-9029045.

He is also the sire of 'Keisha', 8th National Gueret in 2014. Grandfather 'Ludo' BE08-9044319. He is a half brother of a 3rd National Limoges, and Casaert-Senechal obtained this bird from Erik Limbourg. Grandmother 'Alissia' BE10-9039398. 'Alissia' is a full sister of the renowned 'Amalia', 1st National Ace Pigeon Longer Middle Distance KBDB 2011 (now

daughter 'Kaasboer'. Grandmother 'Lara' BE11-9079533. She is a direct and inbred De Smeyter-Restiaen, from a sire x daughter, the sire of a 2nd National Ace Pigeon Middle Distance KBDB 2011 paired to the 2nd National Ace Pigeon itself, 'La Roche aux Faucons'.

It is quite remarkable how Roger and David have been able to breed their



belongs to the PEC), and a crossing of Limbourg (Geert, 86th International Narbonne 14,505 birds) x Gaston Van de Wouwer (granddaughter 'Kaasboer').

Dam 'Alena' BE13-9029197, herself an excellent racing hen. Grandfather 'De 048' BE08-6364048. He is a direct Van de Wouwer, inbred to the renowned 'Kaasboer', he originates from son 'Kaasboer' x

own Champions by combining some of the very best, often inbred bloodlines of some leading Belgian lofts. And these champions are now the stock breeders in their own team.

'Romulus'

'Romulus' is another pigeon that originates from the loft of Deno-Herbots. 'Romulus' BE09-2100512 is himself the sire of 'Lukéa', 6th National Ace Pigeon middle distance YBs KBDB

2012, and a brother of 'Lola', 1st National Argenton 21,092 birds.

Sire 'Clyde' BE00-2102040. 'Clyde' was an excellent racing and breeding bird, and the sire of a 1st and 4th National Argenton. 'Clyde' was also the grandfather of the aforementioned Olympiad pigeon 'Shaïna'. This is no coincidence. Grandfather 'Geschelpte Simon' BE94-8016702. 'Geschelpte Simon' was the sire of a 1st National Cahors 10,077 birds. Grandmother 'Wipenneken' BE94-2399949.

Dam 'Christianne' BE05-2076731. 'Christianne' is a top class breeding hen and the dam of a 1st National Argenton, 'Fabricio', 'Galas', etc. Grandfather 'Den Dirk' BE02-6503571, a direct Dirk Van Dijk Grandmother 'Dochter Muiske' BE01-6382308, a direct Van Beirendonck

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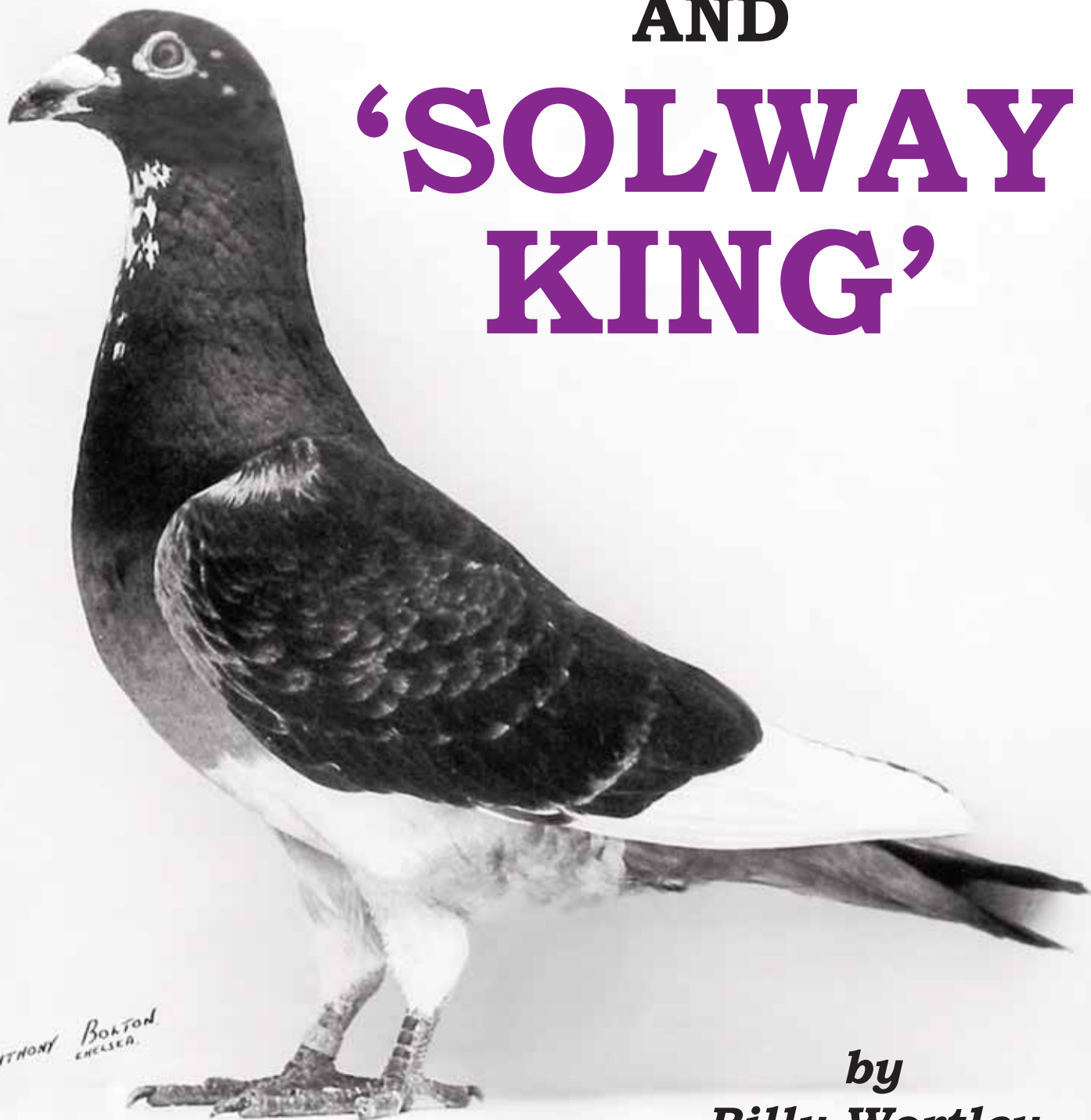
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THE ONGOING STORY OF **JIMMY IRVING**

AND

‘SOLWAY KING’



by
Billy Wortley

My father was very friendly with the late George Jackson and through the friendship I was fortunate to sit with George on several occasions on the nights of the Nationals, watching his birds return from the prestige races. I was at his home on the night of the 1957 Rennes Classic and saw a pigeon drop to Bert Baxter, which we subsequently learned was 1st Section 2nd Open National. As we sat that night a very excited Jimmy Irving came to George Jackson's garden to tell him that he had timed his good dark pied cock. I didn't realise at the time but I was witnessing history in the making as the pied cock was the famous 'Solway King', which two years later came out and won Scotland's premier race.

Jimmy Irving competed in partnership with friend Eric Johnstone, with the two young fanciers housing their pigeons in the garden at the rear of Jimmy's home in Rose Street, Annan, close to the local Gas Works. Jimmy had been introduced to the fancy through his brother, Sinclair, whilst only a schoolboy. Sinclair had caught a stray in his garden and gave it to Jimmy, who reported it and was allowed to keep it. Jimmy housed the pigeon in an Orange Box that was set against the garden wall and before long had several other pigeons in the box "to keep it company". Eric, meanwhile, had a small team of pigeons in his grandmother's garden. A neighbour complained about the pigeons, however and Eric asked Jimmy if he could move them into his Orange Box. When Jimmy's mother saw the number of birds in the box she gave the boys a section of the garden shed to house them and as the months passed the section containing the pigeons became bigger and bigger until the boy's claimed ownership of the entire

shed. In time the boys left school and began to work with Jimmy serving his time as a joiner and Eric becoming a painter. Eric shared a close friendship with Ian Kirkpatrick, the nephew of John Kirkpatrick and through this connection, occasionally took John Kirkpatrick's youngsters for training tosses on the bike and on the bus. When Eric entered the pigeon fancy in earnest he was gifted five unrung youngsters by John Kirkpatrick, these having been bred from the pigeons that were going to SNFC Charlerois.

Amongst other pigeons of note that were introduced were three hens that were obtained from Dalgliesh Brothers from

their loft at Brydekirk. Eric Johnstone, meanwhile, worked as a painter with Bob Thomson, who knew the Kirkpatrick pigeons as well as anyone and Bob made a gift of a red cock to Eric, to pair into the Kirkpatrick's. This cock, incidentally, was bred by Mr Drinkall from Grimsby.

One of the pigeons that Eric received from John Kirkpatrick was a dark chequer hen, which Eric and Jimmy originally believed to be a cock. She was apparently a real topper and contained the lines of 'Galabank Supreme' and the noted Sumner Brothers Logan hen. This hen was coupled to the red cock that was obtained from Bob Thomson and together they produced a



Jimmy Irving (right) and Eric Johnstone photographed with trophies won by 'Solway King'.

Brydekirk. The Dalgliesh Brothers partnership comprised John & James Dalgliesh who in later years were to become known across the country competing under their own names. At that time, however, they raced in partnership and notwithstanding the fact that they were very young; they had obtained quality pigeons from friends and were making a considerable impression on the fancy. Jimmy was gifted the three hens by the brothers, following a visit to

fabulous cock. This cock was in turn paired to one of the hens obtained from Dalgliesh Brothers and this pairing produced 'Solway King'. The hen received from Dalgliesh Brothers was a blue chequer, which was out of a hen that the brothers received from fellow club member, Davie 'Pivie' Murray bred by Mrs R Johnson from Mickleave, Near Derby and was an extra special producer leaving winners with seven different cocks including 5th Open Rennes, 1st Solway Fed

Dol etc. Sire of the blue chequer hen obtained from Dalglish Brothers was a blue pied that was received as a gift from John Jamieson and scored from the Channel on several occasions with his best position being 9th Open Nantes 1953.

John managed the family milk retail business, which took him to the homes of several of the prominent Annan and district fanciers of the time, including the home of John Kirkpatrick. John Jamieson became very friendly with John Kirkpatrick and knew the Kirkpatrick pigeons as well as his own. Such was their friendship that he cared for his pigeons when John Kirkpatrick went on honeymoon, following his second marriage. Amongst the Kirkpatrick birds that John Jamieson particularly admired was the Logan hen that was purchased from Sumner Brothers from Wrexham, which was a great granddaughter of Logan's '1826'. He took a real fancy to a dark cock in the Kirkpatrick loft that was bred from the Logan hen when paired to 'Galabank Supreme' and purchased a pied hen from this cock, which was to become the base pigeon in his loft. She was 56th Open Rennes 1950 and actually scored three times from the Channel. Having damaged her wing she was put to stock and left a host of winners. Such was John Kirkpatrick's opinion of this hen that he tried to buy her back and said 'she was the best one that ever got away'.

The pied cock that Dalglish Brothers received from John Jamieson was bred direct from the original pied hen when paired to a pied cock, which John Jamieson introduced from S B Cooper from Snaith. With knowledge that the Sumner Brothers hen, which contained the lines of Logan's '1826', featured on both sides of the pedigree of 'Solway King' it is prudent to remind our readers that having acquired the very best bloodlines in the world at the end of the nineteenth

century, J W Logan decided to place his affairs in order and sold his horses and pigeons. He sold the horses first and it was recorded that his hunters made the highest prices ever in England. When the pigeons were sold they realised the highest prices ever paid for pigeons in the UK with 106 Lots being sold for almost £4,000, averaging £37.50 each. He did not totally retire from our sport, however

Gladstone' was subsequently sold to J B Joel for £225 with the under-bidders being Lord Dewar and J W Toft. In future years '1826' was quoted in the pedigrees of winning pigeons across the country and as explained above featured in the lineage of 'Solway King'.

'Solway King' was always a good one with his reactions in and around the loft making him



'Solway Duke'.

and continued to race a modest team. In 1921 the members of the NFC competed from San Sebastian for the first time. As an indication of distance, San Sebastian is some 560 miles from London. 177 birds were entered from some of the best long distance lofts in England and the small convoy was liberated at 10am into a NW wind. J W Logan was 8th Open with '1826' and the following season she went back to the equivalent event and was 1st Open on 714ypm from an entry of 240 birds. '1826', which contained the lines of 'Rome 1', 'Old 86' and 'Young

'different'. He went to the channel for the first time in 1957, being 17th Section 96th Open Rennes. The following year he went back to Rennes and was 11th Section 31st Open. A near neighbour of the Irving family was Dobie Warwick who had kept pigeons in his youth and continued the interest by visiting the home of Annan fancier, Andy Muir. Dobie was disabled, having lost a leg, which restricted his mobility. On the night before basketing for the 1959 Rennes Classic, he watched the pied cock exercise and saw him go for one hour forty minutes. He thought

the partners were flagging the pigeon and made his way to the loft to 'tell them off' for force exercising the pigeon so near to basketing. When he arrived at the loft he discovered that Jimmy and Eric couldn't get the pigeon out of the sky. He was raced on the Natural method and was basked for the 1959 Classic covering six day eggs, which was his favoured nest condition and with his second flight half grown.

The convoy was liberated at 5.30am into a west wind and the pied cock was timed at 9.14pm to win the National with a velocity of 895ypm. Two further pigeons were timed into Annan on the night by Dick Lupton and Ian Thomson to be 2nd and 3rd Open. Jimmy and Eric then timed two further birds in the morning to feature in the result. The first of these was timed at 5.33am to gain 4th Section 11th Open National and was the first bird recorded in the morning. The two pigeons timed in the morning were named 'Solway Duke' and 'Solway Laird' and were in fact half-brothers of 'Solway King', being bred from the same sire. The pigeon that was 2nd Open for Dick Lupton deserves special mention as it was a 'real topper'. It was a handsome red cock named 'Ten Four Hundred', which in 1958 it competed from Nantes and on a fast day was 2nd Section 3rd Open National. In contrasting conditions in 1959 'Ten Four Hundred' was 2nd Open Rennes, being on the wing for almost sixteen hours.

'Solway King' was subsequently sold to Louis Massarella and when paired to quality hens in the Louella Stud proved himself to be one of the country's greatest ever stock pigeons. A number of years ago Doctor Horn



Left to right: Alec, Harry & Wilson Thomson otherwise known as Thomson Brothers.

passed to me a copy of an American pigeon publication. Within the magazine was an article written by one of

America's best writers, which recorded the writer's experiences at the Blackpool Show. Whilst in the UK he had been in the

company of the Massarella family and he and Louis Massarella had dined together on the night of the Show. In conversation with Mr Massarella, the American writer had made reference to the great pigeons that had been introduced into the Louella Lofts and asked Mr Massarella which, in his opinion, was the best. Within his article the American writer reported that Mr Massarella immediately responded... 'Solway King'.

Eric Johnstone is regrettably now deceased and whilst Jimmy Irving no longer has pigeons he retains a keen interest in our hobby by visiting the



Dick Lupton's 'Ten Four Hundred'.

lofts of long-time friends. One loft that he visits is that of Emil McCarton who from early years was encouraged in the pigeon hobby by Thomson Brothers, who were near neighbours of the McCarton family. In his youth Emil spent many hours in the company of the brothers and with great clarity can recollect all of their great pigeons. In total there were five Thomson Brothers who participated in our

At that time, also, Jack McGlasson resided in Annan who was very affluent and spent a small fortune on quality pigeons. He was, for example, the principal buyer at the Doctor Buckley Sale. Jack McGlasson attended the final Kirkpatrick Sale and bought four pigeons. He then made acquisitions at the Will Robertson Sale including a direct daughter of the ace Kirkpatrick cock 'Johnny'.

what influence this great pigeon had in other lofts including Frank & Tommy Gilbertson, John Jamieson and James Dalgliesh. Harry Thomson was very friendly with Jack McGlasson and in time the four pigeons purchased at the Kirkpatrick Sale and the daughter of 'Johnny' were gifted to Thomson Brothers.

A host of top quality pigeons came through the family with the most prominent being ped pied cock 'Cloggie's Choice'. He was bred from the mealy hen introduced from Jimmy Thomson, which in turn was out of a red hen, the nestmate to 'Galabank Queen' when paired to a red pied cock a grandson of Galabank King'. Sire of 'Cloggie's Choice' was the chequer pied cock purchased from Mrs Kirkpatrick that was out of a blue hen containing the 'Le Fynen' line of Jock Reid when paired to '442', direct son of 'Galabank Prince' when paired to a chequer pied hen from 'Galabank Supreme' x '6498'. In 1959, 'Cloggie's Choice' was 2nd Section 3rd Open Nantes. He went back to Nantes in 1960 and was 4th Section 6th Open and raced again from Nantes in 1962 and was 12th Section 15th Open. In 1963, the members of the SNFC competed from Beauvais instead of Nantes and the cock was once more up with the leaders to be 9th Section 123rd Open.

As the years rolled by a number of top quality pigeons emerged in Thomson Brothers loft. Consider, for example, red pied cock 'Snowball', which in 1961 was 1st Solway Fed Guernsey and in 1962 was 2nd Open Fed from the equivalent event. This good cock also scored twice from Rennes. A 1978 red pied cock was 1st Section 2nd Open Nantes 1980. Sire was a 1971 red chequer cock, a direct son of Cloggie's Choice' when coupled to the daughter of 'Johnny'. This cock flew Rennes in 1973 as a two year old. In 1974 he was timed in the morning from Nantes to be 8th Open. He flew



Drew Nicholson (left) with Jimmy Irving.

hobby. Jimmy and Bob had their own independent lofts of pigeons and it was Wilson, Alec and Harry who were recognised as Thomson Brothers. When they formed their loft in 1947, they obtained examples of the Kirkpatrick family from their brother, Bob, who introduced his first Kirkpatrick's in the 1930's. Following the death of John Kirkpatrick they then visited Mrs Kirkpatrick and purchased two pigeons, a dark chequer pied cock and a blue chequer cock. Their brother, Jimmy was very friendly with Mr & Mrs Kirkpatrick and also had examples of the family. Jimmy bred a noted mealy hen from these lines and passed it to his brothers.

'Johnny' was the nestmate of 'Galabank Duke' and was a very good pigeon in his own right being 3rd Open Rennes 1953. 'Galabank Duke' and 'Johnny' were two fabulous breeders and left a large number of winners. Consider, for example, that 'Galabank Duke' was the Sire of John McGillivray's '1276' and Louis Massarella's 'Galabank Producer'. The lines of 'Johnny' were dispersed across the South of Scotland and amongst the pigeons to emerge from the line were Bert Baxter's 'Honey Queen' 2nd Open Rennes, 'Billy Gardiner's 'Sky Queen' 1st Open Rennes, Bobby Hope's 'Eastriggs Supreme' 1st Open Rennes, John Dalgliesh's 'Solway Princess' 2nd Open Avranches. Consider also



Drew Nicholson's SNFC Silver Award winner (see text).

Nantes again in 1975 and was then 'put by' for stock. Dam of the 1978 cock was a blue pied, which was out of a blue hen that was 5th Section 11th Open Avranches, being bred from a noted Kirkpatrick hen when coupled to 'Cloggie's Choice'. In 1985 Thomson Brothers were 1st Section 11th Open Rennes with mealy cock 'Harbour Lad'. His dam was a much admired Mealy hen that scored twice from Rennes, from Nantes and from Avranches, being line bred to 'Cloggie's Choice' with an influence of the daughter of 'Johnny'. Sire of 'Harbour Lad' was a Mealy Pied inbred grandson of 'Cloggie's Choice'. Whilst Thomson Brothers never actually won a National, their record was more than impressive. Consider, for example, that they won the Section from Rennes and Nantes and were 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Open from Nantes.

It naturally followed that when Emil McCarton formed a loft of pigeons at his back door, the base family would be Thomson Brothers Kirkpatrick's. In 2009, the SNFC Blue Riband event was flown from Alencon on Saturday 27th June. On a difficult day, Emil McCarton timed at 8.47pm to win the National. The Alencon winner was a three year old blue cock named 'Emil's Boy'. He went to 150 miles as a

youngster and raced to Cheltenham as a yearling. It was intended to send him to the Gold Cup race in 2008 and as part of his preparation; he went to the Inland National from Newbury. He failed to return from Newbury, however and within days was reported in County Down, Northern Ireland. Emil called the fanciers who had the pigeon and informed them that he would arrange with a Carrier to uplift it. The response was that this would prove expensive and if he gave them a few days, they would endeavour to get the pigeon back to Scotland. Several days later Emil received a telephone call to inform me that the pigeon would be on a lorry that would stop at Gretna at midnight on a

Inland National from Newbury. He was additionally tossed on several occasions and advanced into superb condition. He was indeed in such good order that over the days leading up to basketing for the Gold Cup race he sat trembling on the front of loft and chased song birds in the sky. He was basketed covering six day eggs with his second flight half grown and he threw his third flight in the basket.

The sire of the National winner was a blue white flight that contained Thomson Brothers Kirkpatrick lines. He was bred from a blue stock cock when coupled to a chequer hen that was obtained from friend, Drew Nicholson. The blue stock cock was bred direct from Emil's good



Drew Nicholson's dark cock that was 4th Section 6th Open SNFC Alencon 2015.

given day. Emil went to Gretna and collected the pigeon and when he took it out of its box, he was immediately impressed with its condition.

By coincidence, in earlier years the great 'Cloggie's Choice' made a mistake from an inland race and he also returned home in a box. The blue cock was paired in February 2009 and reared a pair of youngsters. He went through the inland programme with the Federation and then competed from the

blue cock known as the 'Rennes Cock', which was 18th Section 144th Open Frome 1997 and weeks later was 5th Section 16th Open Rennes from the infamous Rennes smash. The following season he was 16th Section 29th Open Rennes and in 1999 he was 68th Open SNFC Frome. Dam of the blue 'Rennes Cock' was a red w/f hen obtained from Thomson Brothers. Sire was a homebred mealy pied cock out of a chequer pied hen when paired to a mealy pied cock. The chequer pied was obtained from



Drew Nicholson's loft.

James Dalglish from Annan. The mealy pied meanwhile came from Thomson Brothers.

The chequer pied hen received from Drew Nicholson was bred direct from a noted red pied cock raced by Drew to be 14th Section 22nd Open Rennes 1998 and 5th Section 6th Open SNFC Messac 2000. Dam of 'Emil's Boy' was a chequer pied Jan Aarden hen and was bred by Peter Hockridge from Launceston, Cornwall. The sire was from 'Vlekje' when coupled to 'Dutch Princess', which in turn was bred from 'Smaragd 1' cross a daughter of 'Vlekje'. The dam of the Peter Hockridge hen was bred from a daughter of 'Dolle 73' when paired to a son of 'Zoon Dolle 800', which was of course one of Martin Van Geel's principal reference pigeons.

Our readers will have reasoned that 2009 was exactly fifty years after

1959, when 'Solway King' won Rennes and by coincidence, Jimmy Irving was at Emil's loft to see the pigeon return from the race to win the National. What a magical experience.



Emil McCarton photographed in 2009 when 'Emil's Boy' won SNFC Alencon

Jimmy is also a close friend of Drew Nicholson and in recent years has been at his loft to watch the birds return from local and Classic races. Drew has been involved in our hobby since schoolboy years being originally encouraged and advised by the late Jimmy Thomson, brother of the famous Thomson Brothers. Drew's parents lived next door to Jimmy and when he was a wee boy Drew took a shine to Jimmy Thomson's pigeons, 'just over the garden fence'. In time he convinced his father to partition a section of his garage to form a pigeon shed and when Jimmy realised just how keen Drew was, he set about building him a small loft. Having built a shed for the aspiring young fancier he helped him to stock the shed by obtaining pigeons and eggs for him from Thomson Brothers and eggs from John and Matt Jamieson.

When he left school, Drew

served his time as a painter, working with Eric Johnstone, who as previously explained competed in partnership with Jimmy Irving. The years passed and Drew began working at Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station, where his immediate boss was James Dalglish. James is a superb fancier who gained a host of successes over the years with the most prominent being winning the SNFC Blue Riband event from Alencon in 2012 with blue w/f hen 'Solway Star'. Drew developed a close friendship with James and obtained a number of pigeons from him bred from the best in the shed. As the years moved forward, a number of fine individual birds emerged in Drew's loft, the most impressive of which was a red pied cock that was 14th Section 22nd Open Rennes 1998 and 5th Section 6th Open SNFC Messac 2000. This cock was a top quality pigeon and was on two occasions the first pigeon into Annan from the Gold Cup race. Dam was a wonderful blue hen, which was the principal pigeon in Drew's loft over several years, bloodlines being three quarters James Dalglish and a quarter Andy Wilson from Dumfries. The sire of the red pied cock was



Gold Cup winner, 'Emil's Boy' photographed on his nest two days after the Alencon National in 2009.

obtained direct from Thomson Brothers Drew and friend Emil McCarton greatly admired the Brothers' family of pigeons and when the brothers were in their twilight years, they approached them in an endeavour to obtain an extra special pair of pigeons for stock. Thomson Brothers agreed to provide them with an exceptionally well bred pair,

with the cost being 'a bag of corn'.

Over subsequent years Drew and Emil have exchanged pigeons on an on-going basis to retain the line, which has benefited both lofts. The sire of Drew's red pied cock was in fact one of the pair of pigeons that the friends obtained from the brothers. The second of the two pigeons obtained from Thomson Brothers was a red w/f hen that was owned by Emil McCarton and this pigeon bred Emil's noted 'Rennes Cock', grandsire of 'Emil's Boy', the 2009 Gold Cup winner.

In former years, Drew and his good lady, Jean, resided in Annan township, with houses all around them. Some eight years ago they set about converting a Barn, on Jean's family farm, into a high quality home. One completion of the house, Drew moved the pigeons into a new loft on the farm that was built by Michael Currie from Moffat. Importantly, on erecting the shed he built a shell only and moved the interior from the original shed into the new loft. When put on the road, there was an immediate



Jimmy Irving (right) photographed with Emil McCarton at Annan Homing Club Centenary Dance in 2012.

transformation in the performance of the pigeons. Whilst he only houses a modest team, he has scored consistently in local and National competition week after week at the new address. Consider season 2015 as an example, having entered two pigeons in each race, Drew was 4th Section 6th Open from the SNFC Blue Riband event from Alencon and

SNFC Ancenis and was up with the leaders to be 8th Section 13th Open. In 2016 he was paired at the end of February and reared a pair of youngsters in his first nest and then reared a single youngster in his third nest. He progressed through the Inland programme and thereafter went to Ancenis when he was up with the leaders to be 5th Section 5th Open.



Wing of Drew Nicholson's Silver Award winner.

one week later was 8th Section 13th Open from the longest SNFC race from Ancenis. At the SNFC Prize Presentation at the close of the season he was presented the H A French 'Jubilee' Challenge Trophy, which is a Nomination Trophy and the Mrs H A French 'Challenge' Rosebowl that is competed for annually from the Gold Cup Race by lady members or wives of competing male members.

During the season past, Drew was 4th Section 4th Open from the SNFC Blue Riband event from Liege, the winning pigeon being a six year old dark chequer cock that has scored in the club every year, since he was a youngster. He went to Portsmouth as a yearling and was 2nd Club and competed from the Channel as a two year old. In 2015 he competed from

In 2017 he was treated in a similar manner and once again went to Ancenis but on a difficult day he missed the prize list. During the season past he was paired on 9th March and reared a pair of youngsters in his first nest and then reared a single youngster in the next nest. He had two races in the club and then went to the Inland National from Buckingham. He was driving his hen to nest over the days leading up to departure to Liege and continuously carried straw and twigs to the nest on the Sunday before basketing. The hen layed her first egg on the Monday and the cock went to the race between the eggs. He threw his third flight in the basket.

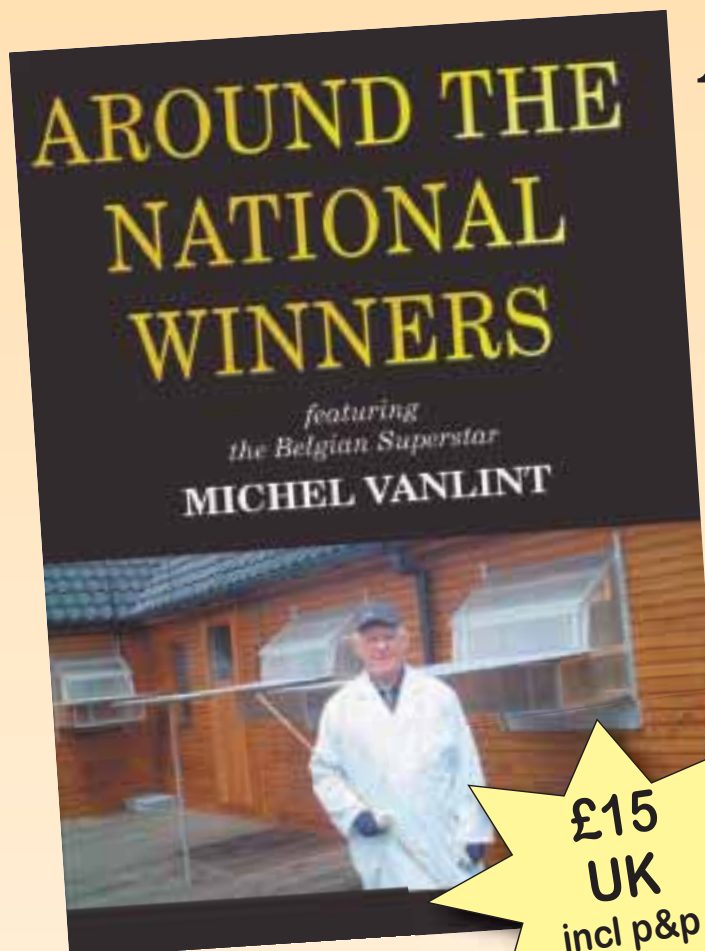
Dam is a blue hen that contains

the loft's established Thomson Brothers Kirkpatrick lines. Sire, meanwhile, was obtained from John Little from Ecclefechan, having been bred by Andy Gregson. John Little was 2nd Open Alencon in 2009 with blue hen 'Little Miss Darcy' that was bred from a pair of pigeons that John purchased from Andy, which were identically bred in different years from a pair of pigeons that were bred by Jac. Van Der Wegen from Steenbergen. 'Little Miss Darcy' was an absolute 'topper', being 2nd Section 2nd Open SNFC Alencon as a two year old and the following year she went back to the Gold Cup race and was once more up with the winners, gaining 5th Section 20th Open. On that occasion she won the Joe Murphy Sporting Challenge.

She didn't get to the National as a four year old but came good again the following year when she was 5th Section 130th Open Clermont and secured an SNFC Silver Award. The following year she went back to Alencon and was once more up with the leaders to be 3rd Section 36th Open.

Understanding the sheer quality of 'Little Miss Darcy', Drew was ever so grateful when offered the stock cock by John and paired it to one of his best hens. Regrettably, he only obtained one youngster from the pair, however, as the cock escaped and this is the pigeon that was 5th and 13th Open Ancenis and 4th Open Liege. Having scored from the Channel on three occasions, the pigeon received a well-deserved Silver Award. Importantly in the context of the story, Jimmy Irving has been at Drew's loft at the new address to see pigeons return from all the recent Classics including being at the shed to see the dark chequer cock gain a Silver Award.

There you have it, the ongoing story of Jimmy Irving who bred and race the famous 'Solway King'.



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RAMBLING MEMORIES

by
**Greg
McKnight**
Anaheim,
California, USA
gregmcknight92804
@msn.com

“EYE ADVANTAGE”

My title is a notice to all that study the complete pigeon including the eye for they have an advantage over most and I'm convinced over my years of study that dates back to the early 1960's when Don & Phil Selfridge show us the inner circle of the pupil at that time a guarded secret and with that my studies began. This sign is the easiest to learn, but the outer pupil signs are the ever learning curve after knowing the basics to look for. Many have put into diagrams with the basic language and pointing out details to view, but this is only the beginning in your own loft of breeders. I personally look for only breeders when selecting and fly the rest. The outer pupil signs are a life's study, so complicated to explain, but easy to see if you're lucky enough to see it first hand. The Pigeon Gods have a way of humbling us. The fancier that studies eyes has a distinct advantage over the one that doesn't.

The eye is somewhat slow in developing when first viewed out of the nest and within a few months the circles and colors get bolder, but remember the sensitivity of the eye works at that early age, a working eye is always needed and this was revealed also over 50 years ago, so most of those forgotten fanciers were far ahead of us, but

knowledge of the signs were guarded, until trust was earned. Movements of the pupil can be almost like jelly in some birds and in others a dead shark



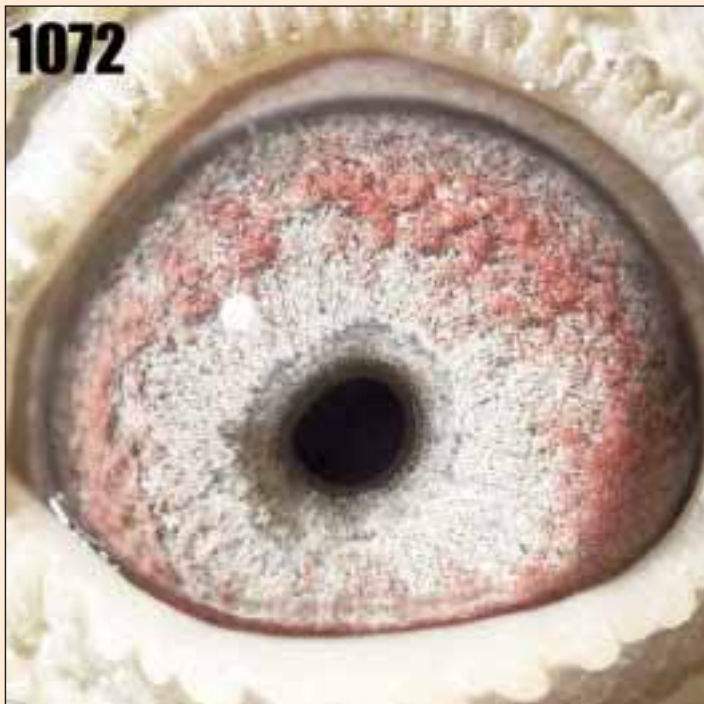
Van Reet son of 'Jimmy's Boy' grandson 3x1sts & 1x2nd 2018 YB's. Note the small pupil with wide bluish first circle of correlation, with the black shading 6-9 o'clock. My view this is a nice neutral eye and best suited for a heavy black first circled hen of any colour. Easy to match up with and somewhat weak in the iris depth a little to flat, not enough black blotches and waves, but again next generation could have all you look for in a bird and this is what's most revealing with a bird like this out of a super one like 'Jimmy's Boy' always try and get better each generation and the eyes can be the telling truth.

223

'Wac-Job' winner and produced generations of winners. Bold colours which appears to be oval shaped pupil, but don't think so with that heavy shading at 6-9 o'clock, remember this is the right eye of the bird beak pointing to right corner of picture. Nice wide correlation with serrated lines on outer edge a preferred trait and as you can see a the inner circle is nice within the pupil, but the colors are super, remember this is mostly a plain colored blue bar hen and with what they call a broken eye, this is the blackish color at the bottom right is most of the time do to a splash coloured bird, but on a solid colored one a better breeding pick. Iris is full of blotches and waves, another great sign.

type eye, with no movement, a poor candidate by the way. Dilation is good, but it can be too much, and has a tiring affect on the bird in long flights, a learnt ability is needed for this degree to look for. Quality of a bird has an expression to the eye; like a piercing one from a Hawk, the focus and intense stare is what you're looking for this is a sign of extreme intelligence, as many of you know in people the madness expresses itself in this human behavior and is recognized in the eyes, with many of these crazies.

I always tell fanciers to look at the overall bird for strengths and weaknesses when viewing, and if purchasing try and buy them out of the best, then start your selection by the first feel in hand, mostly recognized right off within 10 seconds as quality for the feather and balance then a real inspection of wings for grouping and ventilation, then head shapes and character then inspection of the throats, then the eye, and with all these factors showing quality then your percentage has multiplied many times to be a good breeder, but not guaranteed as the Pigeon Gods again humble us. "If you had two

1072

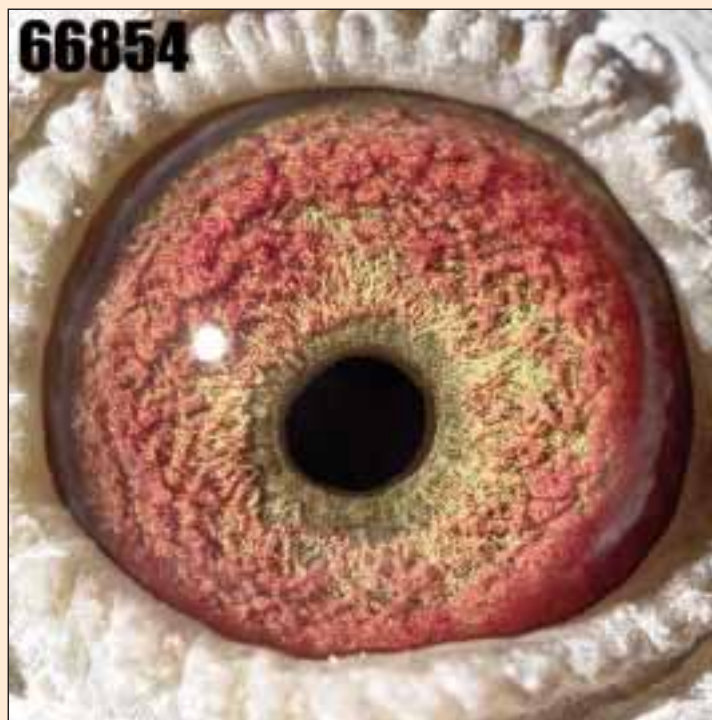
Daughter of 'Blue Velvet' our #1 One Loft Race breeding hen dam to 5 over 300 mile winners. This jewel was bred this year and my favorite birds came out of this hen. This balanced eye as all the circles described by many with diagrams and drawings, again the correlation circle is wide and the outside of this circle is serrated and uneven which you want and the inner iris is spectacular with that silver radiating into the iris and not the waves in the iris along with the blood vessels and the small pupil with again the inner circle showing in the photograph. Just plain easy to match up to almost any male.

01628

'Toby' sire to 'Empire Queen' classic eye with almost no black shading, within the first circle, but note the concentric lines on the inside with a strong inner circle. The outer edge of the first circle is nicely serrated and the width is just super, the wave of black in the iris is wonderful and depth of colors outstanding, again a very easy type eye and sought after in breeding lofts to mate to the rich pearl eyed hens.

13025

'Delilah' progeny winning across the country direct out of 33 time winner 'Danial-Son' this hen show the strong black surrounded black in the correlation circle with super small pupils and the wave of black valleys and ridges in the iris is fantastic with the silver nuggets bleeding through the red iris colour. I should have mated this to 'Toby' a nice eye mating for sure. A terrific hen of character and class.

66854

Van Reet sister to 'Bigity' 11 time winner and terrific producer, full black shading and already proved her worth in the stock loft breeding generations of winners. The character in the iris is nice with the black waves thru out this balanced eye, again you see the inner circle with the small pupil and serrated black at the outer edge of the first circle, she is bred from a father-daughter mating. 'Jimmy's Boy' mated to 'Rita', yikes doesn't get any better than that. 'Rita' is the dam to 'Mister 900' 10 time winner in one season.

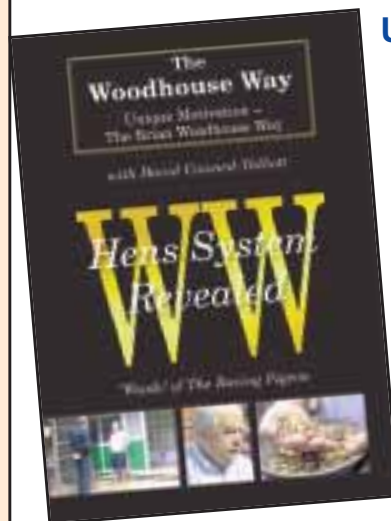
birds side by side with all attributes the same, always take the bird with the better eye." I've found this to be the determining factor in selection of breeders, so by that said, I think theirs a distinct advantage for the fancier who studies eyes.

I've found that by seeing photo's of eyes with my comments has a better learning affect for the fancier that gain, a quicker knowledge and I back this up with many calls received, thanking me for showing them those details of the eyes. This is as close as I can get for a hands-on way for all of you. These pictures are of our birds which I know the most about in performing in the stock loft.

My hope for you all is to guide you in your goals to reach and maintain success for years to come. The eyes and colors give you a road map to the future so use it to read your family of birds and by this your future is bright.

Thank you for your continued kind comments.
Sincerely, Greg McKnight.

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PIGEON HEALTH

OLD BIRD RACE PROGRAMME

Following this programme will provide all your pigeons old bird racing season requirements with a complete enriched vitamin, mineral, macro mineral and trace element supply.

Saturday (race return) **SportLYTE** 10g (2 teaspoons) to 2 litres of luke warm water.

Sunday (24 hours after race) **SportHerb** 10ml to 2 litres of luke warm drinking water.

Monday (48 hours after race) **Sport V** 10ml to 2 litres of water for races up to 200 miles, increasing to 20ml per 2 litres of drinking water for +200 plus miles.

Tuesday fresh drinking water only.

Wednesday, adjust supplementation according to a four week cycle as follows. Week 1 – **FlorBio** 10g per 2kg of food mixed with 2ml of **Peanut Oil** and **Y40** 10ml per 2 litres of drinking water.

Week 2 – **FlorBio** 10g per 2kg of food mixed with 5ml of **Peanut Oil** or to 2 litres of drinking water. Week 3 – **FlorBio** 10g to 2kg of food mixed with 5ml of **Peanut Oil** or to 2 litres of drinking water.

Week 4 (or any week when racing greater than 200 miles) **FlorBio** 10g per 2kg of food mixed with 5ml of **Peanut Oil** and **Sport B** 10ml to 2 litres of drinking water.

Thursday (48 hours prior to race) **Sport B** 10ml to 2 litres of drinking water. Remove 12 hours before basketing and replace with fresh drinking water to ensure proper rehydration.

Friday (day of basketing) fresh drinking water only.

SportLYTE is a sports powder drink specifically formulated for pigeons to help rehydrate and replace the electrically charged micro-mineral ions quickly and safely.

Sport V is ideal to use as a breeding tonic, young bird tonic, moulting and darkness tonic. Also ideal as a sprint racing supplement, middle to extreme distance racing and as a general vitamin supplement after medication or illness.

SportHerb is a specific blend that has a soothing and relaxing effect and helps as a detoxifier and anti-oxidant.

Sport B is the all new athletic performance micronutrient supplement designed to compliment and maximise energy impact.

FlorBio contains *enterococcus faecium* a scientifically advanced probiotic, useful for helping to balance the pH and gut microbiological population of pigeons. This powerful product can be used to help maintain normal digestive functions. Use especially during periods of stress.

Peanut Oil is nutrient rich, providing over 30 essential nutrients and phytonutrients. Peanuts are a good source of niacin, folate, fibre, magnesium, vitamin E, manganese and phosphorus.

Y40 can be used to help maintain the pigeons own management of the crop and digestive system.

CanKex can be used regularly to help maintain natural crop health, particularly after a hard race, dehydration or at times of natural stress, such as the breeding and moulting seasons.

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AROUND ANTWERP DVDS

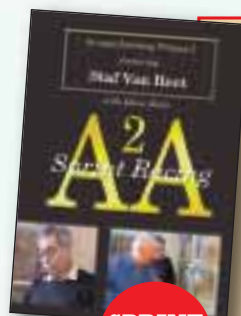


**SPRINT
RACING**

Volume One

**with Dave Allen featuring
Albert Marcelis**

An in depth look with Dave Allen at one of the most respected sprint racers there is, Albert Marcelis. Albert, who is now 85, still ranks high in the KBDB National Sprint Championships each year and during this visit we take a look at the loft, the birds and the little things that made winning for him so easy.
Duration approximately 60 minutes.

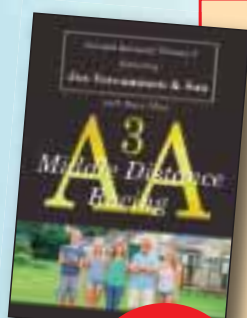


**SPRINT
RACING**

Volume Two

**with Dave Allen featuring
Staf van Reet**

An in depth look with Dave Allen at a fancier who has become a household name in England. Staf van Reet and his family from Mol, in Belgium, have been successfully breeding birds since 1982 and we look at his training methods and learn some of his secrets.
Duration approximately 80 minutes.



**MIDDLE
DISTANCE
RACING**

Volume Three

**with Dave Allen featuring Jos
Vercammen & Son**

In this, the third of our series Around Antwerp, we are visiting the loft of Jos Vercammen & Son of Ghent, in the province of Antwerp. In Dave Allen's opinion these are the best middle distance lofts in the area. He is one of the best middle distance flyers in Belgium. Here with Vercammen we have excellent pigeons and also some of the most innovative ideas that you will see.
Duration approximately 100 minutes.

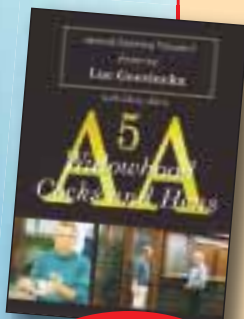


**WIDOWHOOD
COCKS &
HENS**

Volume Four

**with Dave Allen featuring Van
Elsacker-Jepsen**

Here we have a fancier who made pigeon racing his profession, he is today's William Geers of Antwerp. He operates a system of Widowhood with both cocks and hens, but not Roundabout. Geers tells of his unique system of selecting his birds for the breeding loft, along with the whys and wherefores of all the products he uses.
Duration approximately 90 minutes.



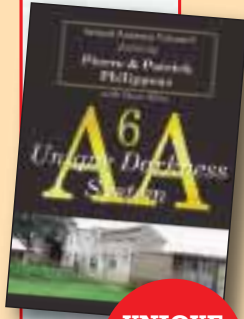
**WIDOWHOOD
COCKS &
HENS**

Volume Five

**with Dave Allen featuring Luc
Geerinckx**

Luc Geerinckx and his son, Bart, have been at the 'top of the tree' in the Antwerp area for a number of years, but they have peaked over the last two to three years. With 40 Widowhood cocks and 16 Widowhood hens they are a force to be reckoned with week in and week out. They are the natural successors to Jos Soontjens whose pigeons they had direct over a number of years. He lived only 200 yards down the street, and Luc was never far away from his loft.

Duration approximately 90 minutes.



**UNIQUE
DARKNESS
SYSTEM**

Volume Six

**Dave Allen interviews Pierre &
Patrick Philippens of Fourn-le-Comte**

General Champions KBDB, all distances and performances that would make your mouth water. This video demonstrates an entirely different method of managing pigeons. See how the loft attains natural immunity, they have never had young bird sickness. They have a unique method of using the Darkness system, one that they believe does not disrupt the pigeons biological clock.

Duration approximately 90 minutes.

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**LONG
DISTANCE
RACING**

Volume Seven

with Dave Allen featuring Jos Joosens and Jimmy Brands

Jimmy Brands and Jos Joosens are highly regarded and well known by most of the long distance fanciers in Belgium. This DVD reveals their methods of flying the distance which is somewhat different to the sprint and middle distance fanciers. When a pigeon finishes it's racing career and is transferred to the breeding loft it will have flown at least twelve races of 500 miles or more.

Duration approximately 110 minutes.



**SPRINT/
MIDDLE
DISTANCE
RACING**

Volume Eight

with Dave Allen featuring champion sprint fanciers Van Herle-Reyskens and Patricia Verhagen

This is an absolute must for all sprint fanciers. Van Herle-Reyskens are twice Sprint Champions of all Belgium 2002 to 2004 with just 16 Widowhood cocks. This is a real in depth look at their breeding, racing and feeding systems. Patricia Verhagen and her husband were Champion Middle Distance fanciers of all Belgium in 2003 with just 13 Widowhood hens. If you race Widowhood hens this video is a must.

Duration approximately 120 minutes.



**VETERINARY
SPRINT
RACING**

Volume Nine

with Dave Allen featuring Dr Henk De Weerd and Janssens-Seghers

Featuring the International vet Dr Henk De Weerd and a sprint fancier Roland Janssens. Roland's ideas are simple and to the point and have kept him at the top for years. However, is this success down to the practical advice of fancier friend and vet Henk De Weerd. Henk's advice is based on fact, backed up with results in the International arena. Here he goes into detail about how and why you should use certain products.

Duration approximately 120 minutes.



**AVERAGES
50X1sts
A SEASON**

Volume Ten

with Dave Allen featuring Patrick Lismont

Patrick Lismont is a young fancier racing in Bekkevoort on the Antwerp-Brabant border. Patrick does not court publicity, this is done with the results achieved by his pigeons, in fact he averages 50x1st prizes a year. During this video we follow his methods, how he uses his loft and of course what you really want to know, what products he uses.

Duration approximately 85 minutes.

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**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE ON
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IN THE 23rd SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE
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(THE RACE WITH THE PROVEN TRACK RECORD)
(THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN THE PIGEON WORLD)
WHICH WAS HELD AT
HERON BANKS GOLF & RIVER ESTATE, SOUTH AFRICA
ON SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2019.**

ANOTHER RACE SEASON FINISHES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUNSHINE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM TEAM had a really fantastic race and won the following OPEN positions:- 23rd, 27th, 33rd, 36th, 45th, 49th, 67th, 84th, 91st, 92nd, 105th, 107th, 136th, 138th, 147th, 186th, 194th, 200th, 210th, 239th, 248th, 252nd, 282nd & 299th OPEN and won US\$39,800 (£31,840) in Prize Money, plus one fancier purchased an Un-Activated Pigeon and it won 28th & won him US\$3,500 (£2,800) in Prize Money. UK fanciers also won US\$11,696 (£9,357) in the Nominations. TOTAL WINNINGS were US\$54,996 (£43,997).

THE IRISH TEAM also had a very good race and won the following OPEN positions:- 56th, 106th, 111th, 116th, 134th, 135th, 211th, 258th, 265th, 284th & 287th OPEN and US\$12,000 (£9,600) in Prize Money. TOTAL WINNINGS were US\$12,000 (£9,600).

THE TOP 50 PIGEONS SOLD AT AUCTION FOR A STAGGERING ZAR6.251500 MILLION SOUTH AFRICAN RANDS, WHICH EQUATES TO US\$465,141 OR £353,792 OR E403,583. AN AVERAGE SELLING PRICE OF ZAR125,030 OR US\$9,303 OR £7,076 EACH OR E8,072. THIS JUST GOES TO SHOW THE VALUE THAT PIGEON FANCIERS AROUND THE WORLD PUT ON PIGEONS THAT WIN IN THE SAMDPR.

Firstly, let me apologise for the lateness of this International Press Release but as most of you know I also treat this race as my annual holiday and whilst I am in South Africa for the race, I also like to visit other parts of this outstanding continent. This time I also decided to stay a few extra days and take in the Auction of the top 50 pigeons in the 23rd SAMDPR. Over the past 23 years I have visited plenty of different areas and have loved them all. Anybody that is thinking of entering the race in the future or travelling out to South Africa for the race or a holiday, I will be only too pleased to offer them some

advice on where are some of the most exciting places to visit on your trip. I arrived with Tad Truszkowski at Emerald Resort Hotel about 9am on Tuesday 20th January 2019.

On the Wednesday morning we had agreed to meet Sara Blackshaw at Heron Banks Golf & River Estate to play a few holes of golf and then have a few beers and a light lunch in the clubhouse. We were greeted by Gary Lance who owns the golf club and he said he would meet us later for a drink. After the golf, drinks and food it was

back to Emerald Resort to meet a few other fanciers that were checking in during the day. As we walked in we were greeted by Richard Newton and Andrea Taylor,

Gerry McCourt and Kathleen, Karl & Nicola Donnelly and Megan & Riley, and we joined them for a few drinks before going back to get showered and changed for the evening. We all met later and Tad and myself went out to the Breeze Restaurant for a meal before returning for a few more drinks with fanciers at the bar.

Thursday morning soon dawned and it was time to go for breakfast, where we once again met lots of fanciers we had not seen since last year. After breakfast it was time for the pigeons to be basketed for the 23rd SAMDPR, the loft staff now have this off to a fine art. Soon the basketing and loading of the baskets was completed and the transporter took them on a short journey to the E&E Centre at Emerald Resort, Hotel & Casino just across the Vaal River in Vanderbijlpark where the pigeons were to be basketed for the Final Race. The transporter arrived and the pigeons were unloaded and everything was set up at the E&E Centre at the Emerald Resort to start the race marking at about 12 o'clock and four marking tables were already set up and ready to go, the Auditors EW Coetzee & Associates were again all present and there were lots of willing fanciers were waiting to help with the basketing of the pigeons.

The full baskets were taken off the transporter and into the E&E Centre and basketing officially started about 12.30. Corrie Naude explained the marking procedure to those fanciers that had offered to assist and soon we were on our way to get all the pigeons race marked. Everybody was complimenting the loft staff and race organisers the way the pigeons handled and many fanciers that have done this race marking for numerous years stated it was the best condition the pigeons had ever been in. This after a very trying and testing year in training and racing because of the heavy rain, thunderstorms and extreme temperatures during the race series, plus of course because training had actually started later than usual. However, as is usual with this great international race, if the pigeons are basketed for this Final Race then they sure are ready for their final hurdle. After about four hours the task was finally completed and thanks must go to all the pigeon fanciers and friends that assisted us during the race marking because without their help this massive task would have taken much longer to achieve. A few pigeons were taken out because of injuries and these were placed in separate baskets for the Veterinary Officer Dr Piet van Zyl to check them out and in total 12 pigeons were withdrawn from the race as not being fit to compete. A few pigeons were given new electronic ring and these details were then added to the database and finally at about 17.00 the Auditors finally announced that we had basketed a total of 2,531 pigeons from 40 different countries for the 23rd SAMDPR.

After this massive task we all made our way back to the Emerald Resort Hotel which would be our base for

the next few days to have a few drinks at the bar. After a few beers to unwind with fanciers from many different countries, it was off to the room to get showered and changed before going out for another event which had been organised for about 7pm on Thursday evening the race organisers had laid on something special and this was a two-hour sunset "BOOZE CRUISE" up and down the Vaal River which included drinks, light meals, refreshments and canapes. This was attended by lots of fanciers and friends and turned out to be a lovely way to start an event, the weather was fantastic and as we made our way back everybody experienced a fantastic African sunset. A fabulous evening was enjoyed by all that were present. It was also great to see all the loft lads present and enjoying themselves and meeting some of the pigeon fanciers from all over the world. Back to the bar in the hotel to have a few drinks and meet other fanciers which had arrived throughout the day and early evening.

Friday morning dawned and Sara Blackshaw (Director of Air Sport Internationale, The Presenters of the Race) had arranged for a Country Co-ordinator's meeting to take place at 08.30 in the Kilimanjaro Room. Also in attendance were Michael Holt (Race Director), Pieter Saayman (Systems Administrator), Willi van Beers (Loft Manager), Marion Branford (Administration), Maitland White Blackshaw (Loft Assistant), Paul Smith (International Race Co-ordinator) and all the Country Race Co-ordinator's that were attending the race. It is always an interesting meeting because you get different views from numerous countries. The trial period for 3 to 4 pigeons was now over and from now on it would be only teams of 4 pigeons from the 24th SAMDPR. Numerous other items were raised and discussed. Quarantine issues were talked about and minuted. Having three races a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays had been tried and was successful. Prize Money and Entry Fees was discussed and everybody will be notified of any changes or additions to the current structure. The new state of the art Benzing Electronic Clocking System had been fitted and completed and had worked well all through the race series. The meeting finally came to a close because two special events had also been arranged for later in the morning and they were a golf and a fishing tournament for those that wanted to participate. This meeting took about two hours and numerous things were discussed and then minuted.



I had entered the third SAMDPR 18 hole golf tournament, along with Tad, Sara and about 20 other pigeon fanciers from literally all over the world. The weather was ideal for golf and it was decided to play a best two ball score competition as it would be a quicker game. The plan was we played 9 holes and then stop for a beer/wine and a light lunch, kindly supplied by Air Sport Internationale, after this break we would then continue to play the last 9 holes. A very civilised way to play a golf tournament I thought. Thanks to Gary Lance, the owner of Heron Banks Golf & River Golf Club and all his staff for making us all so welcome. The winning team was led by Hein Beneke and three other golfers from South Africa and their team finished

with 97 points. Our team of only three players finished second just one point behind with 96 points. A really close finish and enjoyed by all who participated.

I did not enter the first fishing competition on the Vaal River as I was playing golf but according to all those that participated it was a great way to spend a few hours. Air Sport Internationale had hired all the fishing rods and purchased the bait and I believe from what I was told it was exceptionally well supported and whilst there were not too many fish caught but as usual there were lots of stories about the one that got away. After the competition finished they all had a braai and a few drinks supplied by Air Sport Internationale. Well done to Willi van Beers for assisting with organising this extra bit of fun. Mike Ganus from United States of America was the winner with a really good fish, weighing it at 3.975kg, rumour has it he brought his own bait over from the States. Well if you have to do that to win, it must be worth it. No all joking apart, well done Mike on yet another 1st SAMDPR.

Another new venture was to hold a Ten Pin Bowling Competition after the fishing and the golf had finished and Mike Ganus was left in charge to organise this event. Quite a few players turned up for this competition and they all had a really great time. However, the winner turned out to be Mike Ganus from United States of America, who I was told by another competitor that he looked like a professional bowler. Seems like he did something else bar racing and breeding pigeons in his younger days. Well done Mike on yet another 1st SAMDPR.

For those that did not to participate in any of these activities this was a day of rest for most but for those involved in making sure the race goes ahead it was work as usual as everything had to be set up in the E&E Centre in the fantastic Emerald Resort, so that all visitors can enjoy the race during Saturday.

Friday evening at 19.30 was the Welcome Cocktail Party in the Kilimanjaro Room in the Emerald Resort Hotel, which was right next to the Restaurant and Bar area. The setting was outstanding and place was packed and food and drinks were available. After about one hour Sara Blackshaw took to the stage and gave a report on tomorrow's race and she wished everybody success. The pigeons had arrived safely at the race point and had been fed and watered ready for the early morning liberation from Colesberg 521km (324 miles). Then with the assistance of Joan-e Holt (Public Relations) the race sponsors and all the Country Co-ordinator's that were present were called up to the stage and given a small gift for all their hard work and efforts over the past year. The Official Race Sponsors were then called to the stage and they were as follows:- Peter Furstenberg from Shine Interactive, Keith McLintock & Brett Lindsay from Big Brave Digital, Deirdre Kallmeyer from African Olive Travels Concepts, Dr. Henk De Weerd from Belgica De Weerd Clinic, Sudhoff Veterinary, Brother Copiers, Medpet, Turf Pet Hyper, Benzing Electronic Clocking System, Frank

Nebig from Animals To Fly (Shipping), The Racing Pigeon & International Pictorial and Pigeons On Line. Also two very special mentions were for Heron Banks Golf & River Estate and of course Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel. All of these were met with great applaud and the Country Co-ordinator's that were present then had a team photograph taken. Then Sara Blackshaw announced the winners of the three special competitions held earlier in the day, and the winners of the golf tournament were Hein Beneke and his team from South Africa,



unfortunately nobody was present to pick up the trophy from Sara Blackshaw. The winner of the fishing tournament was Mike Ganus from United States of America and he proudly walked to the stage to pick up the trophy, he was applauded by those present and I am sure he will be back to defend his title next year. Then it was the turn to present the winner of the Ten Pin Bowling Competition and once again it was Mike Ganus from United States of America who was the winner and once again he was applauded as he collected his trophy. Another double for this great fancier. He really came to win THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE but walked away with two nice trophies for his efforts. Just as well Mike does not play golf because he could have won all three competitions. Yet another

well supported event and place was buzzing with excitement for what tomorrow might bring for one lucky fancier or syndicate. When the event ended it was a short move to the outside in a marquee with its own bar and waiters for some live music with its own resident singer John Dragon from Ireland, who now works in Tenerife most of the time, who kept everybody entertained until the early hours and a great time was had by all who were present. It really was a great way to finish off a wonderful day.

Saturday morning dawned and we went down for breakfast, it was a beautiful day for a pigeon race, albeit the wind was a bit on the fresh side.

THE FINAL RACE took place on Saturday 2nd February 2019 and liberation was at 06.00 from Colesberg 521km (324 miles), fine and cool conditions with a light north east wind and no storms were forecast and it looked like a perfect day for a race of this quality. The race entry consisted of 2,531 pigeons from 40 different countries and was made up as follows:- Australia 4, Austria 17, Bahrain 2, Belgium 111, Bosnia & Herzegovina 1, Bulgaria 11, Canada 43, China 16, Croatia 2, Czech Republic 52, Denmark 29, Egypt 6, France 15, Germany 579, Greece 4, Iraq 3, Ireland 58, Italy 16, Kuwait 220, Moldova 1, Morocco 2, Namibia 3, Netherlands 101, Norway 10, Poland 65, Portugal 4, Puerto Rico 2, Qatar 17, Romania 50, Saudi Arabia 41, Slovakia 25, Slovenia 1, South Africa 580, Spain 7, Sweden 3, Switzerland 11, Trinidad 2, United Arab Emirates 26, United Kingdom 138 and United States of America 253. This total was made up of 1,951 International pigeons and 580 pigeons from South Africa.

There were just 12 pigeons in the Hold Back List that were not basketed because they had been deemed unfit to compete by the Veterinary Officer Dr. Piet van Zyl, these

were made up as follows:- 1 from Germany, 1 from Iraq, 1 from Italy, 3 from Kuwait, 5 from South Africa and 1 from United Kingdom. If any of these were paid up entries the owners will get a refund as per the rules of the race.

After a nice breakfast we made our way over to the E&E Centre and it was starting to fill up with many fanciers from all over the world, plus of course lots of South African fanciers and friends that were turning up to enjoy the race day activities. It was good to see the trade stands that had supported this event doing good business and my friend for many years Allan Jordaan was interviewing fanciers and other people on the stage. Food and drinks were available and the big screen on the stage was showing the Hot Spot Car Races that had taken place during the 2018/19 race series. Then the Final Race liberation was shown on the two big screens in the hall, it really was a great liberation and the pigeons cleared the race point in minutes. Lunch had been

laid on in the E&E Centre for all that had tickets and that started at 12 noon and the tables were soon full of pigeon fanciers and friends from all over the world having a good time and talking about what might be about to happen, all hoping that the first pigeon over the winning line would be theirs or if not one from a fellow countryman or somebody they knew.

The E&E Centre was filling up and it was estimated that there were around 1,500 fanciers and friends in the hall and numbers were still increasing. Lots of fanciers had travelled from all over South Africa to view and be part of the race as it actually happened and to be part of a wonderful experience. I finally left the E&E Centre for the race loft with Michael Holt and Pieter Saayman at about 12.30 and we arrived at the loft about 10 minutes later, everything was already set up and ready to go, all the final checks were done and found to be working perfectly and it was now time to start looking into the sky. I predicated the winning pigeon would take about eight to eight and a half hours to cover the 324 mile journey, just around 40 miles per hour, so my estimated arrival time would be between 14.00/14.30. However, as usual I was out spotting well before this estimated arrival time. Then all of a sudden at 14.17 a small gang of 4 pigeons came bang on line hit the trapping area and were all clocked within 9 seconds of each other, everybody present now held their breath hoping it was their pigeon that went through the trap first, then the massive screens showed the winning pigeon to take 1st OPEN was TEAM BRANDY with pigeon named PREMIER MY PRICE clocked at 14.17.36.90 and bred by MANFRED SCHMIDT & MARTINA BAU from GERMANY. Then 2nd OPEN went to RUNE RASMUSSEN from DENMARK, 3rd OPEN went to HOLTS LOFT from UNITED STATES of AMERICA, 4th OPEN went to PIPA ELITE CENTER from BELGIUM. Just 3 minutes later a further 4 pigeons arrived bang on line at 14.20, these

were all clocked within 29 seconds, followed by another small gang at 14.22 and another small gang at 14.25. See the results below for the top 50 pigeons or go onto www.samdpr.com to view the full race result. The pigeons continued to roll in all afternoon with all 300 cash prize being taken by 18.36.

LIVESTREAM (YOUTUBE'S NEW LIVE BROADCASTING

PLATFORM) was available to watch online on the SAMDPR Website and pigeon fanciers from literally all over the world were logging on to watch the race unfold. Keith McIntock & Brett Lindsay and Big Brave Digital and staff are the company involved with this side of the race. The figures run into thousands watching at the same time. Keith Lindsay was at the race loft doing interviews were going out live, plus Facebook and Twitter. These were seen by thousands of fanciers, friends and people all over the world. The work and effort these guys put into doing this job



professionally is remarkable, everything has to be done correctly for it to be seen by all who log on to watch what they cover. They also filmed at all the 5 Hot Spot Car Races and the liberation and of course The Final Race. This gives all the pigeon fanciers or interested parties all over the world the chance to view these events LIVE and as they actually happen. THESE GUYS DO A SUPERB JOB AND ARE WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD. Special words of praise must also go to Keith McIntock & Brett Lindsay and staff from Big Brave Digital and also to Peter Furstenberg and his staff from Shine Interactive, they do a wonderful job with all the media and technical worldwide coverage, that is watched literally all over the world. They do a magnificent job. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GUYS.

CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE COVETED 1st OPEN PRIZE went to TEAM BRANDY from GERMANY with their superb pigeon named PREMIER MY PRICE ring number DV-01233-18-2080 bred by MANFRED SCHMIDT & MARTINA BAU which was officially clocked at 14.17.36.90 to record a velocity of 1149ypm, 1047 m/m, 17.45 m/s (39mph) winning a GOLD MEDAL, SUPERB TROPHY, WINNER'S JACKET and THE WINNER'S CHEQUE for US\$200,000 (£160,000). Also winning Open and German Nominations, plus the Zandy Meyer Memorial Mercedes SLK Car Nomination and walked away with a staggering total of US\$293,429 (£234,743).

This pigeon then sold for an amazing ZAR350,000 SOUTH AFRICAN RAND (US\$26,042) to Mike Ganus from United States of America. Then 2nd Open Rune Rasmussen from Denmark with pigeon named Okutanrune bred by Rune Rasmussen & Mustafa Okutan, which was officially clocked at 14.17.38.08, winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$125,000 (£100,000), 3rd Open Holts Loft from United States of America with pigeon named Little Spirit bred by Tim Holt which was officially clocked at 14.17.38.98,

winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$75,000 (£60,000), 4th Open PIPA Elite Center from Belgium with pigeon named PEC 467 bred by PIPA Elite Center, winning GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$50,000 (£40,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.17.45.82, 5th Open Ken Easley from United States of America with pigeon named BB 8 bred by Ken Easley winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$35,000 (£28,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.20.01.78, this pigeon also won the KNOCKOUT COMPETITION and US\$25,000 (£20,000), 6th Open Team Valya & Rosen Dobrevi from Bulgaria with pigeon named Miss Kriss bred by Team Valya & Rosen Dobrevi winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$20,000 (£16,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.20.08.61, 7th Open Club Pretoria Oos Wedvlugduiwe Klub from South Africa with pigeon named Jadzia bred by Triple J Lofts winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$17,500 (£14,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.20.11.10, 8th Open Ganus Family Loft from United States of America with pigeon named JAZZ MAN bred by Mike Ganus winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$15,000 (£12,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.20.32.17, 9th Open SG Eschenberg u Sohn from Germany with pigeon named Gusion bred by Eschenberg u Sohn winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and US\$12,500 (£10,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.22.22.07, 10th Open Rivera Loft from United States of America with pigeon named AMA1 bred by Jose Rivera winning a GOLD MEDAL, Trophy and

Targoviste745x35521 bred by Kevin Li winning US\$3,500 (£2,800), 23rd Open Team Ettrick from United Kingdom with pigeon named Ettrick Angle bred by Bobby Dalziel winning US\$3,500 (£2,800), 24th Open E Tufte – O Hegland from Denmark with pigeon named Ole 1 bred by Ole Hegland winning US\$3,500 (£2,800) and 25th Open Team Pahnke - Gockel from Germany with pigeon named Golden Blackjack bred by Erhard Pahnke winning US\$3,500 (£2,800). There are another 275 Cash Prizes that were won. For the full race result please log on to the official SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com where you can see what time all the pigeons were officially clocked and what they all actually won. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS ON THE DAY.

There were 300 cash prizes so that means another 275 cash prizes were up for grabs. I would love to list all 300 winners but unfortunately, limited space does not allow this to happen. A total of 339 pigeons were officially clocked on the day up to 19.28 and 4 of these were NON-ACTIVATED PIGEONS or DEFAULTER PIGEONS. One pigeon was clocked during the darkness at 01.30. There were 9 different countries represented in the top 20 and 8 minutes 04.45 seconds between these pigeons. The top 50 pigeons had 14 different countries represented in this result and there was 43 minutes 01.41 seconds between the top 50 and then a total of 22 different countries were represented in the top 100 in the Open in this race and



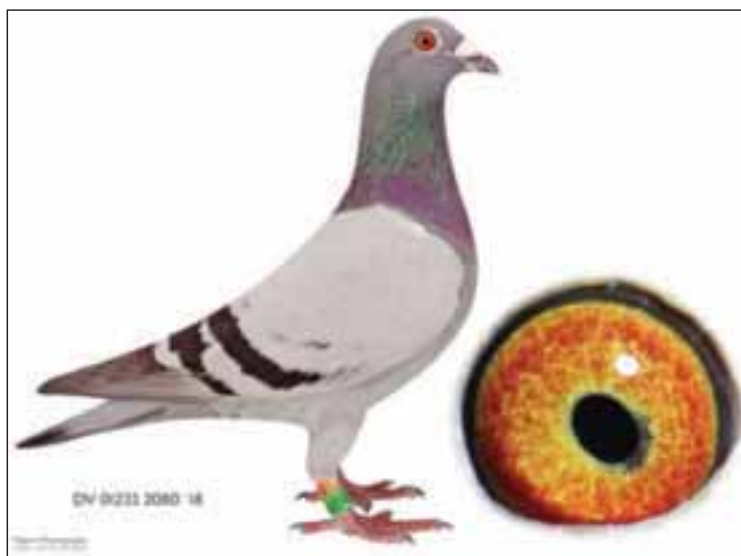
US\$10,000 (£8,000), this pigeon was officially clocked at 14.22.48.15, 11th Open Club Ignacio Dorronsoro from United States of America with pigeon named Lucia 2 bred by Ignacio Dorronsoro winning US\$7,000 (£5,600), 12th Open Ervin Laro from Italy with pigeon named World Champion Rankin bred by Ervin Laro winning US\$7,000 (£5,600), 13th Open Juergen Stefaniszyn from Germany with pigeon named Sylt Lilla 6 bred by Juergen Stefaniszyn winning US\$7,000 (£5,600), 14th Open Ervin Laro from Italy with pigeon named Ivano bred by Ervin Laro winning US\$7,000 (£5,600), this pigeon and the one that took 12th Open won the 2-Bird Average & US\$2,000, 15th Open Ringostar Syndicate from Kuwait with pigeon named Naser 8 bred by Abdullah Buhemeed winning US\$7,000 (£5,600), 16th Open Robert Darr – Donald Bicknell from United States of America with pigeon named DB12 bred by Robert Darr – Donald Bicknell winning US\$5,000 (£4,000), 17th Open Robert Darr – Donald Bicknell from United States of America with pigeon named DB41 bred by Robert Darr – Donald Bicknell winning US\$5,000 (£4,000), 18th Open Alp Race Team from Switzerland with pigeon named Bluebell bred by Simon Wolf winning US\$5,000 (£4,000), 19th Open Team Sasse - Wezel from Germany with pigeon named NL CdD – Hurri 3 bred by SG Sasse winning US\$5,000 (£4,000), 20th Open Johann Seitz from Germany with pigeon named M 938 bred by Johann Seitz winning US\$5,000 (£4,000), 21st Open Team Sigi from Germany with pigeon named Schneewitteken bred by Sigrun Kehrer winning US\$3,500 (£2,800), 22nd Open Kevin Lee from United States of America with pigeon named

there was 1 hour 40 minutes 58.51 seconds between the top 100 in this race. A total of 1,205 pigeons had been officially clocked by Sunday evening, then 1,299 by Monday evening. More pigeons were clocked over the next few days bring the total to 1,374 pigeons. A later Loft List on the SAMDPR Web Site shows 1,414 pigeons have made it back to the loft in Heron Banks Golf & River Estate. More pigeons will work back, so if yours is still missing, keep your eye on the Loft Lists as these will be updated as pigeons return back to the race loft. Full results can be seen on www.samdpr.com

CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING 1st UNITED KINGDOM, 23rd OPEN went to TEAM ETTRICK with pigeon named ETTRICK ANGLE bred by BOBBY DALZIEL from SELKIRK, which was officially clocked at 14.27.01.36 which won a cool US\$3,500 (£2,800) for its efforts. Well done Bobby, your first attempt at the SAMDPR, your pigeons did exceptionally well right through the race series. Then 2nd UK, 27th Open Scotland's Own Syndicate with pigeon named Young Reekie bred by W. Kinnear & Son from Edinburgh, which won US\$3,500 (£2,800), 3rd UK, 33rd Open Paul Smith Syndicate with pigeon named Stansted Gold Charm bred by Kevin Hibbert from Rotherham, which won US\$3,000 (£2,400), 4th UK, 36th Open TadT with pigeon named Big Bopper bred by Tad Truszkowski and Vince Crossley from Melton Mowbray, which won US\$3,000 (£2,400), 5th UK, 45th Open Millys Loft with pigeon named Dundee Babe bred by Michael Mellor from Crewe, which won US\$2,500 (£2,000), 6th UK, 49th Open another for Paul Smith Syndicate with pigeon named

Stansted Gold Bullet bred by Kevin Hibbert from Rotherham, which won US\$2,500 (£2,000), 7th UK, 67th Open another for Team Ettrick with pigeon named Ettrick Pride bred by Booby Dalziel from Selkirk, which won US\$2,000 (£1,600), 8th UK, 84th Open Zandys Dream Team with pigeon named Zandys Princess bred by Paul Smith from Stansted Mountfitchet, which won US\$1,750 (£1,400), 9th UK, 91st Open Rixshaw with pigeon named Diddy Man bred by Len Rix from Mildenhall, which won US\$1,750 (£1,400), 10th UK, 92nd Open another for Millys Loft with pigeon named Hot Dundee, which won US\$1,750 (£1,400), 11th UK, 105th Open Brian Clayburn with pigeon named Duration bred by Brian Clayburn from Ackworth, which won US\$1,500 (£1,200), 12th UK, 107th Open another for Brian Clayburn with pigeon named Another Touch bred by Brian Clayburn from Ackworth, which won US\$1,500 (£1,200), 13th UK, 136th Open Bet-Right Lofts with pigeon named Solo bred by Jeremy Wright from Lutterworth, which won US\$1,250 (£1,000), 14th UK, 138th Open John Cooper with pigeon named Welsh Boy with pigeon bred by John Cooper from Pontypridd, which won US\$1,250 (£1,000), 15th UK, 147th Open Obelisk Syndicate with pigeon named Blue Obelisk with pigeon bred by the late Derek Nicholls from Premier Stud and entered by Clive Barrett from Taunton, which won US\$1,250 (£1,000), 16th UK, 186th Open another for Zandys Dream Team with pigeon named Zandys Dynasty bred Paul Smith from Stansted Mountfitchet, which won US\$1,100 (£880), 17th UK, 194th Open another for Bet-Right Lofts with pigeon named Blue Train bred by M. Betts and entered by Jeremy Wright from Lutterworth, which won US\$1,100 (£880), 18th UK, 200th Open Team Lincs with pigeon named Waddington bred by Paul & Tracey Stacey from Sleaford, which won US\$1,100 (£880), 19th UK, 210th Open another for Team Lincs with pigeon named Cadney bred by Paul & Tracey Stacey from Sleaford, which won US\$1,000 (£800), 20th UK, 239th Open another for Millys Loft with pigeon named Not You Again Dundee bred by Michael Mellor from Crewe, which won US\$1,000 (£800), 21st UK, 248th Open another for Millys Loft with pigeon named Pull The Pin Dundee bred by Michael Mellor from Crewe, which won US\$1,000 (£800), 22nd UK, 252nd Open Team Islwyn with pigeon named Ben bred by Robert Jones from Port Talbot which won US\$500 (£400), 23rd UK, 282nd Open another for Zandys Dream Team with pigeon named Zandys Prince bred by Paul Smith from Stansted Mountfitchet, which won US\$500 (£400) and 24th UK, 299th Open Pet Shop Boys & Girls with pigeon named Astons Girl bred by John Alderslade from Bridlington, which won US\$500 (£400). A total of 83 United Kingdom pigeons were officially recorded, which was a fantastic result for the UK Team. WELL DONE TO ALL, A FANTASTIC TEAM PERFORMANCE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY CHALLENGE for the first nominated pigeon clocked in the Final Race went to PAUL SMITH SYNDICATE with pigeon named STANSTED GOLD CHARM bred by KEVIN HIBBERT from ROTHERHAM and



entered by PAUL SMITH from STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, which won US\$3,120 (£2,496) for its efforts. CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS GREAT WIN. For the full result see the SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com

THE UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY CHALLENGE AVERAGES after 20 official races was 1st ZANDYS DREAM TEAM with pigeon named ZANDYS PRINCESS bred by PAUL SMITH from STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET with a combined flying time of 40.20.22.81 up 13

places from the previous race. Then 2nd also went to Zandys Dream Team with pigeon named Zandys Prince bred by Paul Smith from Stansted Mountfitchet with a combined flying time of 41.31.50.69 up 6 places from the previous race. Interesting that both of these pigeons were bred from the same pair.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS SUPER PERFORMANCE. For the full result see the SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com

CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING 1st IRELAND, 56th OPEN went to MAURICE O'DONNELL with pigeon named LIADAIN 8 bred by MAURICE O'DONNELL, which was officially clocked at 15.05.00.00, winning US\$2,000 (£1,600) for its efforts.

Then 2nd Ireland, 106th Open H+C Thorpe - McMorrow with pigeon named Alex 2, bred by H & C Thorpe – McMorrow, which won US\$1,500 (£1,200), 3rd Ireland, 111th Open Pat Maher with pigeon named Lucky Gabby, bred by Pat Maher, which won US\$1,500 (£1,200), 4th Ireland, 116th Open Philip & Mark Smith with pigeon named Rhys, bred by Philip & Mark Smith, which won US\$1,500 (£1,200), 5th Ireland, 134th Open Green Team with pigeon named Grove Hill Gone Baby Gone, bred by MC Conlon, which won US\$1,250 (£1,000), 6th Ireland, 135th Open PJ & Donal with pigeon named Apollo bred by Donal Begley, which won US\$1,250 (£1,000), 7th Ireland, 211th Open Taximush with pigeon named Taxi Mush Blue bred by Garret Hensey, which won US\$1,000 (£800), 8th Ireland, 258th Open Jackpot Lofts with pigeon named Amazing bred by Karl Donnelly, which won US\$500 (£400), 9th Ireland, 265th Open Curtin Brothers with pigeon named Adam bred by Curtin Brothers, which won US\$500 (£400), 10th Ireland, 284th Open Jos Reilly – Team Ireland with pigeon named Roco bred by Jos Reilly, which won US\$500 (£400), then 11th Ireland, 287th Open Kallmeyer & Partners with pigeon named Rainbow Dash bred by H D A Kallmeyer. The Irish Team got 40 pigeons home. WELL DONE TO ALL THESE WINNERS.

THE IRISH COUNTRY CHALLENGE for the first nominated pigeon clocked in the Final Race went to PHILIP & MARK SMITH with pigeon named RHYS bred by PHILIP & MARK SMITH, which won US\$520 (£416) for its efforts. WELL DONE TO THESE FANCIERS. For the full result see the SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com

THE IRISH COUNTRY CHALLENGE AVERAGES after 20

official races was 1st PHILIP & MARK SMITH with pigeon named RHYS bred by PHILIP & MARK SMITH with a combined flying time of 40.21.13.60 unchanged from the previous race. Then 2nd went to Philip & Mark Smith with pigeon named Florance bred by Philip & Mark Smith with a combined flying time of 57.36.36.98 unchanged from the previous race. CONGRATULATIONS GUYS ON A GREAT RESULT. For the full result see the SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com

GLOBAL NOMINATIONS ON THE FINAL RACE amounted to a staggering US\$210,059.65c (£168,048) which included 77 pigeons entered at US\$1,000 (£800) per pigeon entry fee with the top prize worth a cool US\$65,450 (£52,360) for the Zandy Meyer Memorial Mercedes Car Entry and a grand total of 918 pigeons including 57 pigeons from the United Kingdom and 17 pigeons from Ireland and a total of 4,490 Global Nominations were actually placed. Once again the UNITED KINGDOM TEAM members did really well with TADT taking 36th OPEN with pigeon named BIG BOPPER bred by TAD TRUSZKOWSKI and VINCE CROSSLEY from MELTON MOWBRAY, this pigeon won a cool US\$6,596 (£5,277). Then MILLYS LOFT taking 45th OPEN with pigeon named DUNDEE BABE bred by MICHAEL

named WIND OF CHANGE bred by WA WALDOW & SILVIA THIEL with a total combined flying time of 36.42.06.20 to cover the 20 races that counted, this pigeon moved up 64 places from the previous race. 1st UNITED KINGDOM, 8th OPEN went to SCOTLAND'S OWN SYNDICATE with pigeon named YOUNG REEKIE bred by W KINNEAR & SON from EDINBURGH with a total flying time of 37.30.05.43 to cover the 20 races that counted, this pigeon moved up 310 places from the previous race. 1st IRELAND, 43rd OPEN went to PHILIP & MARK SMITH with their pigeon named RHYS bred by PHILIP & MARK SMITH with a total combined flying time of 40.21.13.60 in the 20 races that counted, this pigeon moved up 476 places from the previous race. WELL DONE TO ALL THE WINNERS IN THIS COMPETITION.

The 2-BIRD AVERAGE IN THE FINAL RACE carried a US\$2,000 (£1,600) cash prize and that was won by ERVIN LARO (Team 2) from ITALY with his pigeons named WORLD CHAMPION RANKIN (12th) and IVANO (14th) both bred by ERWIN LARO with a total velocity of 34.466 m/s. 1st UNITED KINGDOM, 2nd OPEN was TEAM ETTRICK (Team 1) with pigeons named ETTRICK ANGLE (23rd) and ETTRICK PRIDE (67th) both bred by BOBBY DALZIEL from



MELLOR from CREWE that won US\$5,100 (£4,080) for its efforts. THE IRISH TEAM had no winners. WELL DONE TO ALL THESE FANCIERS. IT REALLY HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING RACE SERIES FOR FANCIERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND AS THEY HAVE WON MORE THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE OF GLOBAL NOMINATIONS RIGHT THROUGH THE 2018/2019 RACE PROGRAMME.

REGIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TEAM in the FINAL RACE amounted to only US\$162.35c (£130) with only 4 pigeons entered with 10 Nominations. There were no winners so all the money will be refunded to those that entered pigeons.

REGIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR THE IRISH TEAM in the FINAL RACE amounted to no pigeons being entered.

THE OVERALL AVERAGES after 20 official races in the 2018/19 race series finished as follows:- 1st GERMANY, 1st OPEN and the 1st Prize of US\$10,000 (£8,000) went to TEAM RUHR-HANS-JUERGEN THIELEN from GERMANY with pigeon named RUHR 11 bred by HANS-JUERGEN-THIELEN with a total combined flying time of 36.05.51.94 to cover the 20 races that counted, winning this category clearly by nearly 21 minutes, this pigeon moved up 71 places from the previous race. Then 2nd GERMANY, 2nd OPEN and the 2nd Prize of US\$5,000 (£4,000) went to B v G RACING TEAM from GERMANY with pigeon named ROYAL JET JUNIOR bred by NORMAN BEHRENS-SOREN GREINERT with a total combined flying time of 36.26.19.62 to cover the 20 races that counted, this pigeon moved up 36 places from the previous race. Then 3rd GERMANY, 3rd OPEN and US\$2,500 (£2,000) went to WA WALDOW & SILVIA THIEL from GERMANY with pigeon

SELKIRK with a total velocity of 32.759 m/s. The UK Team members had 10 teams in the top 116 in this category. 1st IRELAND, 30th OPEN was GROVE HILL LOFTS (Team 1) with pigeons named GROVE HILL GONE BABY GONE (134th) and GROVE HILL MILLION DOLLAR BABY (333rd) both bred by MC CONLON with a total velocity of 24.527 m/s. WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED.

The 3-BIRD AVERAGE IN THE FINAL RACE carried a US\$3,000 (£2,400) cash prize and was won by THOMAS AMMANN (Team 1) from GERMANY with pigeons named PILAR (35th), CEDRIC (72nd) and SCHATTENFELL (276th) all bred by THOMAS AMMANN with a total velocity of 44.252 m/s. 1st UNITED KINGDOM, 6th OPEN was MILLYS LOFT (Team 2) with pigeons named HOT DUNDEE (93rd), PULL THE PIN DUNDEE (248th) and DUNDEE SMASH IT (527th) all bred by MICHAEL MELLOR from CREWE with a total velocity of 32.359 m/s. 1st IRELAND, 27th OPEN was KALLMEYER & PARTNERS (Team 1) with pigeons named RAINBOW DASH (287th), LADYGLITTERSPARKLES (705th) and DANNYTWILIGHTSPARKLE (1090th) all bred by H D A KALLMEYER with a total velocity of 21.726 m/s. WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED.

THE ZANDY MEYER MEMORIAL MERCEDES BENZ CAR NOMINATION which has a US\$1,000 (approx. £800) ENTRY FEE NOMINATION PER PIGEON also took place on the "FINAL RACE" and the winner of A BRAND NEW MERCEDES BENZ CLK MOTOR CAR, worth a staggering US\$65,450 (approx. £52,360). (ONLY "ACTIVATED" PIGEONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR ANY OF THESE SPECIAL CASH PRIZES OR AWARDS). This treasured award this year was won by TEAM BRANDY with their pigeon named PREMIER MY PRICE bred by MANFRED SCHMIDT &



MARTINA BAU from GERMANY that won 1st OPEN in THE FINAL RACE. THIS PIGEON BEAT 77 PIGEONS THAT WERE ENTERED INTO THIS PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION. WHAT A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT, WELL DONE TO THESE TWO GERMAN FANCIERS.

As per the race rules of this great International Race any UN-ACTIVATED pigeons after one week after the 5th HOT SPOT CAR RACE has taken place are listed on the SAMDPR Website FOR SALE at US\$1,100 (£880) each and anybody in the world can purchase any of these pigeons and whatever Prize Money they win in the Final Race goes to the new owners. However, if one of the UN-ACTIVATED pigeons that had been purchased wins a position in the top ten, the TROPHY and GOLD MEDAL goes to the person that originally entered it, plus the original owner gets any funds raised from the auction after the Final Race. This year 289 pigeons were NOT-ACTIVATED by their owners after Hot Spot Car Race 5 and when the list went on the SAMDPR Website a total of 247 of these were sold prior to the race, meaning that just 42 pigeons were actually not flying for Prize Money in the Final Race. As usual quite a few of these pigeons won Prize Money for their new owners. WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED.

THE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION for the 2017/18 race series offered a US\$25,000 (£20,000) First Prize and only fully paid up pigeon before basketing of Hot Spot Car Race 1 are eligible to compete for this great cash prize. This fantastic competition offers the following conditions and one lucky winner will walk away with "THE POT OF GOLD" after the Final Race. These rules are as follows:- This competition will take place over the last four Hot Spot Car Races and the Final Race, if however any Hot Spot Car Race are cancelled the race committee can use a Training Race to replace any Hot Spot Car Race. THE FINAL RACE on SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2019 and just 56 top class pigeons were competing and the first pigeon clocked of these remaining 56 KNOCKOUT PIGEONS will walk away this coveted First Prize of US\$25,000 (£20,000). I can

now announce that the winner actually took 5th OPEN in THE FINAL RACE and was KEN EASLEY from UNITED STATES of AMERICA with pigeon named BB 8 and bred by KEN EASLEY. Only two UK pigeons were left in and 1st UNITED KINGDOM, 3rd OPEN was MILLYS LOFT with pigeon named DUNDEE BABE bred by MICHAEL MELLOR from CREWE. There were no IRISH pigeons left to compete in the Final Race. WELL DONE TO ALL THESE PIGEONS. THIS REALLY IS A GREAT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION THAT CREATES A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INTEREST AND EXCITEMENT THROUGHOUT THE 2018/19 RACE SERIES.

Saturday evening was the Gala/Presentation Dinner and as I walked into the E&E Centre at 19.30 it looked stunning to say the least, fanciers and friend poured in and soon all the tables were full. Our superb Master of Ceremonies for the evening was once again Keith Lindsey who got everybody in the right mood before introducing Sara Blackshaw (Director of Air Sport Internationale) and she spoke about the tough race the pigeons had encountered today but as in most races there are winners and losers. She thanked everybody for their support and wished them all a safe journey home and hoped to see them all

next year at the 24th SAMDPR. It was then the turn for Michael Holt (Race Director) who also had a few words to say about the training and racing that had already taken place during the 2018/19 race season and congratulated everybody on their achievements in the Final Race. Once again he stressed it had been a tough year with heavy rain, thunderstorms and record temperatures. Unfortunately, there is not a book written that tells you how to run a pigeon race, so we have learnt from scratch and found out what works and what is practical and what benefits all. Then Joan-e Holt (Public Relations) joined Sara Blackshaw (Director of ASI) the others



and special awards were given out to Michael Holt (Race Director), Pieter Saayman (Systems Administration), Stephan Steenkamp (Systems Administration), Willi van Beers (Loft Manager), Andre van Wyk (Loft Manager), Corrie Naude (Convoyer/Trainer), Marion Branford (Administration), Joan-e Holt (Public Relations), Dr Piet van Zyl (Veterinary Officer), Maitland White Blackshaw (Loft Assistant) plus of course all the 10 Lofts Lads for all their hard work during the year. Once again it was mentioned that Gary Lance the owner of Heron Banks Golf & River Estate and of course the staff of Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel had gone out of their way to assist from the start, without their help and assistance we could never have hosted such a race, thanks again for all your help. All were given much applause. Hope I did not miss anybody out, if I did I apologise. All the top 10 prizes were presented to the winners and if they were not present the Country Co-ordinator was called up to

collected their Trophy and Gold Medal, everybody that came to the stage were applauded. The evening was rounded off with some fantastic music, played by John Dragon, who Air Sport Internationale had asked to travel over from Tenerife to perform for us over the few days we were in Emerald Resort. Everybody enjoyed the music and entertainment. Once the evening quietened down we asked John to come back to the hotel and sing us a few more songs in the Bar area, he duly obliged and a good time was had by all who stayed up to listen to him.

After a fantastic evening of entertainment, food and drink it was once again time to say our goodbyes to many fanciers and friends and when this had been done, it was as usual the British, Irish groups that were last to leave the hall as they as usual were celebrating after a wonderful race day. Then it was back to the hotel bar to enjoy a few more drinks. As we arrived the place was packed and everybody was in great spirit, drinks were ordered and consumed and then more arrived, then somebody order some shots (Oh! Dear).

It should also be mentioned and noted once again the fantastic amount of work and effort Sara Blackshaw (Director of Air Sport Internationale) puts into this race, she works tirelessly to make sure that this pigeon race keeps where it has been for the last 23 years and that is without doubt THE BEST PIGEON RACE IN THE WORLD.

Sunday morning dawned all too early and we all went down for breakfast, some later than others I hasten to say. A Loft Visit was arranged for these that wanted to see to the top ten pigeons. Sara Blackshaw who has a lovely house on Heron Banks Golf & River Estate had invited all fanciers and guests attending the SAMDPR to her home from 12 o'clock onwards to enjoy a few drinks and a lamb spit braai. Many attended this closing event and they were once again entertained by John Dragon and a good time was had by all who turned up. A great way to say our goodbyes and thank yous to all our fanciers and friends. Buses were supplied to bring people and return them to the Emerald Resort Hotel. Some fanciers and guests had to leave early to catch their transfers or flights but those that stayed all had a great afternoon. Many thanks Sara for your great hospitality, it was appreciated by all that attended.

It was once again great to meet up and talk to such world renowned fanciers as Willi van Beers, Werner Waldow, Silvia Thiel, Klaus Stieneker, Hans Bruhl from Germany, Thomas Gyselbrecht (Pipa) and his wife, Michel Wouters and Ton de Kovel from Belgium, Henk Jurriens, Esther Bultman Noorderijk, Frank Nebig and Lizette Blokdijk, Fred Spronk from Netherlands, Corrie Naude, Andre van Wyk, Hein Beneke, Allan Jordaan, Joe Gomes, Butch Einkamerer, Mark Kitchenbrand, Eric Brown, Jurie & Daleen Erwee, Roger Harris, Dave Gilbert, Gary Fang, Rob Conradie, Samuel Lofts all from South Africa, Gerry McCourt, Kathleen & Karl Donnelly from Ireland, Mike & Debbie Ganus, Daniel Hash, Tom Kuiper from United States of America, Thomas Zimmermann from Austria, Geoff and Carol Armand, Craig Hunt from Zimbabwe, Steven Fang from China, Stein & Benny Thorsen and their other four friends from Norway, Tad Truszkowski, Richard

Newton and Andrea Taylor from United Kingdom plus Paul Stokes also from the United Kingdom who has recently moved out to South Africa a couple of years ago. Plus, over the race weekend I also talked to many other top renowned International and South African pigeon fanciers.

This year it was decided to try a different way to photograph all the pigeons that returned from the Final Race and this massive task was left to Maitland White Blackshaw. This was of course a tremendous amount of work but finally with the help and assistance of all the Loft Staff he completed this extremely frustrating project. I watched him photograph many of these world class winning pigeons and he took thousands of photographs which were then used for the SAMDPR Auctions all around South Africa. WELL DONE MAITLAND ON COMPLETING THIS MASSIVE TASK.

As the International Race Co-ordinator for the 23rd year Paul Smith would like to personally thank all the Country Race Shippers/Co-ordinators, Frank Nebig from Animals To Fly, Allan Jordaan the Master of Ceremonies at the E&E Centre, Hein Beneke the auctioneer, all the Loft Lads, Keith Lindsay Master of Ceremonies at the Welcome/Gala Dinners, Keith McLintock & Brett Lindsay from Big Brave Digital the Livestream Team, Peter Furstenberg from Shine Interactive and all the staff who work for the SAMDPR, all the backroom staff who we do not see and in fact anybody that has something to do for the SAMDPR a really BIG THANK YOU for all your help and assistance during the past year as without your help and support the race could not continue. I would also like to personally thank Sara Blackshaw (Director of Air Sport Internationale, The Presenters of this Race) for her continued great support and taking this great race forward into the future. CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYBODY, YOU ALL REALLY DO A FANTASTIC JOB.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT I am sorry that I can't add all the information about who bred all the pigeons or where they live but I can only publish details which I am in possession of. If there are no details besides your winning pigeon or pigeons then please contact me on reglofts@aol.com with your details and I will include these in my later International Press Reports. I personally do like to give all the fanciers, entrants and breeders all the credit they and their pigeons deserve when they manage to get in the results so your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

THE AUCTIONS of the top 50 winning pigeons had in the early years taken place the day after the race but this year once again it was decided to hold the auction two weeks after the race and run the auction from Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel on Saturday 16th February 2019. This gives the pigeons a chance to recover and also to be photographed before the pigeons are put online on the SAMDPR Auction Site. Hein Beneke (Auctioneer) was appointed to do the auction and at the same time we would also allow telephone bidding. This year I decided to stay a few extra days so that I could be present at the auction. The top 50 winning pigeons were placed on the

SAMDPR Website Auction Site on their Home Page and this gave fanciers from all over the world an opportunity to their place bids on any of these pigeons for nearly two weeks prior to the actual auction taking place. These bids that were placed online would then be the opening bid when Hein opened the actual auction. The Top 50 pigeons would be shown on LIVESTREAM and then people in the room and phone bids would be accepted and the highest bidder would purchase the pigeon. Currently there will around 56 auctions in total of 24 pigeons at different venues all over South Africa and all can be seen by logging onto www.samdpr.com and looking for the Auction Section of the right hand side of the Home Page or hitting the Auction button at the bottom of the Home Page. So far there are nearly 1,500 pigeons to be offered for sale. If you wish to place a "BID" you can do so by filling in an "AUCTION REPORT FORM" which is on the SAMDPR Website for downloading. Depending if more pigeons arrive home later, then these extra pigeons may be added to the auctions already listed, please keep your eyes open to see where your pigeon/s are being sold. As usual the Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel had many fanciers from all over South Africa attending and with many open phone lines which encouraged fanciers from all over the world to place their bids. The pigeons would be auctioned starting from 1st to 50th positions.

AUCTION SELLING PRICES The first 25 Lots are as mentioned above in the

OPEN RESULTS and Lot 26 to 50 the owners/breeders can be found by logging onto the SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com and looking under the Auction Section. Lot 1 ZAR350,000 or approx. (US\$26,042) (£19,808) (E22595), Lot 2 ZAR720,000 approx. (US\$53,572) (£40,747) (E46,482), Lot 3 ZAR500,000 approx. (US\$37,203) (£28,297) (E32,279), Lot 4 ZAR1.300000 approx. (US\$96,726) (£73,572) (E83,925), Lot 5 ZAR220,000 approx. (US\$16,369) (£12,451) (E14,203), Lot 6 ZAR300,000 approx. (US\$22,321) (£16,978) (E19,367), Lot 7 ZAR300,000 approx. (US\$22,321) (£16,978) (E19,367), Lot 8 ZAR630,000 approx. (US\$46,875) (£35,654) (E40,671), Lot 9 ZAR160,100 approx. (US\$11,905) (£9,055) (E10,329), Lot 10 ZAR70,000 approx. (US\$5,208) (£3,962) (E4,519), Lot 11 ZAR55,000 approx. (US\$4,092) (£3,113) (E3,551), Lot 12 ZAR40,100 approx. (US\$2,984) (£2,269) (E2,589), Lot 13 ZAR45,000 approx. (US\$3,348) (£2,547) (E2,905), Lot 14 ZAR42,000 approx. (US\$3,125) (£2,377) (E2,712), Lot 15 ZAR55,000 approx. (US\$4,092) (£3,113) (E3,551), Lot 16 ZAR27,500 approx. (US\$2,046) (£1,556) (E1,775), Lot 17 ZAR39,000 approx. (US\$2,902) (£2,207) (E2,518), Lot 18 ZAR27,000 approx. (US\$2,009) (£1,528) (E1,743), Lot 19 ZAR23,000 approx. (US\$1,711) (£1,302) (E1,485), Lot 20 ZAR24,000 approx. (US\$1,786) (£1,358) (E1,550), Lot 21 ZAR20,100 approx. (US\$1,496) (£1,138) (E1,298), Lot 22 ZAR25,100 approx. (US\$1,868) (£1,420) (E1,620), Lot 23 ZAR23,000 approx. (US\$1,711) (£1,302) (E1,485), Lot 24 ZAR30,000 approx. (US\$2,232) (£1,698) (E1,937), Lot 25 ZAR30,000 approx. (US\$2,232) (£1,698) (E1,937), Lot 26 ZAR220,000 approx. (US\$16,369) (£12,451) (E14,203), Lot 27 ZAR85,000 approx. (US\$6,325) (£4,810) (E5,487), Lot 28 ZAR20,000 approx. (US\$1,488) (£1,132) (E1,291), Lot 29 ZAR100,000 approx. (US\$7,440) (£5,659) (E6,456), Lot 30 ZAR40,000 approx. (US\$2,976) (£2,264) (E2,582), Lot 31 ZAR35,000 approx. (US\$2,604) (£1,981) (E2,260), Lot 32 ZAR27,500 approx. (US\$2,046) (£1,556) (E1,775), Lot 33 ZAR49,000 approx. (US\$3,646) (£2,773) (E3,163), Lot 34 ZAR22,000 approx. (US\$1,637) (£1,245) (E1,420), Lot 35 ZAR30,000 approx. (US\$2,232)

(£1,698) (E1,937), Lot 36 ZAR38,000 approx. (US\$2,827) (£2,151) (E2,453), Lot 37 ZAR21,000 approx. (US\$1,563) (£1,188) (E1,356), Lot 38 ZAR21,000 approx. (US\$1,563) (£1,188) (E1,356), Lot 39 ZAR9,100 approx. (US\$677) (£515) (E588), Lot 40 ZAR65,000 approx. (US\$4,836) (£3,679) (E4,196), Lot 41 ZAR21,000 approx. (US\$1,563) (£1,188) (E1,356), Lot 42 ZAR75,000 approx. (US\$5,580) (£4,245) (E4,842), Lot 43 ZAR22,000 approx. (US\$1,637) (£1,245) (E1,420), Lot 44 ZAR27,000 approx. (US\$2,009) (£1,528) (E1,743), Lot 45 ZAR50,000 approx. (US\$3,720) (£2,830) (E3,228), Lot 46 ZAR85,100 approx. (US\$6,332) (£4,816) (E5,494), Lot 47 ZAR65,000 approx. (US\$4,836) (£3,679) (E4,196), Lot 48 ZAR21,000 approx. (US\$1,563) (£1,188) (E1,356), Lot 49 ZAR25,000 approx. (US\$1,860) (£1,415) (E1,614), Lot 50 ZAR22,000 approx. (US\$1,637) (£1,188) (E1,356). The top 50 pigeons fetched a staggering ZAR6.251500 Million Rand, or approx. US\$465,142 or £353,792 or E403,583. The average price per pigeon worked out at a staggering ZAR125,030 or approximately US\$9,303 or £7,076 or E8,072 each. This once again just goes to show the great value that top fanciers from all over the world put on pigeons that compete and win in the SAMDPR. Of course a BIG THANK YOU goes to HEIN BENEKE for his auctioneering skills and of course all the other SAMDPR staff and others that helped and assisted during the time it took to sell all these 50 top class winning pigeons, plus of course all pigeon fanciers from literally all over the world that placed bids and to those fanciers that were lucky enough to purchase any of these top class pigeons.

If you are interested in participating or acting a Country Race Team Shipper, then please contact me as soon as possible on 01279-812005 or my mobile number 07860-568216 or SMS or email on reglofts@aol.com and I will give you all the information that you require. This year there will only be one shipping date for The 24th SAMDPR will be around the middle of MAY 2019. I will confirm shipping dates once all the Import/Export Permits have been granted.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to enter and how many pigeons you wish to enter into The 24th SAMDPR and which shipment you would like them to go out on. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me by telephone, email or mobile SMS as I will be only too pleased to send you out a PRESENTATION PACK, that contains ENTRY FORMS and everything else you need to know about the race. If you need to know anything else just pick up the telephone or email me, I will be only too pleased to assist in any way I can.

If you have any questions about any aspect of THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE, then can you please contact me as soon as possible on 01279-812005 or my mobile 07860-568216 or by SMS or email at reglofts@aol.com and I will do my best to answer any of your questions or queries about this great race.

Once again the "HITS" on the SAMDPR Web Site have been remarkable to say the least and as soon as I get confirmed figures I will report them in a later International Press Release for all to see. In past years they have exceeded 80 million "HITS". So once again this year I expect a figure in excess of 100 million "HITS" during the year.

If you wish to see photographs or short videos of things

that happened during the 2018/19 race season, then please log onto the state of the art SAMDPR Website www.samdpr.com and you can see a selection of photographs and short videos for all to see.

Many great statements over the years have been given or written by actual race winners but the one that really stands out for me is what a past winner FILIP NORMAN from BELGIUM said "That winning the Million Dollar Pigeon Race was better than winning his two Barcelona Nationals". This just goes to show how important the SAMDPR is to the race winner wherever they come from.

IF ANY PIGEON FANCIER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR IN FACT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MY WEEKLY "INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASES", "NEWSLETTERS" AND "UPDATES" BY EMAIL, THEN ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS EMAIL ME THEIR ACTUAL EMAIL ADDRESS AND I WILL PUT THEM ON MY EMAIL DATABASE AND I WILL THEN FORWARD THEM ALL THE INFORMATION BY EMAIL ON A REGULAR BASIS.

It would be remiss of me not to personally thank Gary Lance the owner of Heron Banks Golf & River Estate and the Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel and all the staff for the use of this fantastic venue, everything was outstanding to say the least and I know that everybody that visited the race this year really enjoyed this great place where everybody made you feel so welcome.

One thing is still for sure The South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race is still the best and biggest one loft pigeon race in the world today and is the one that top fanciers all over the world want to do well in. It is run by a team of professionals and has paid out every dollar of its projected prize money every year for the past 23 years. One thing is for sure with this great race, that if you are lucky enough to get a top position in the Final Race, your pigeon or pigeons are really well rewarded. So why not enter some of your top class pigeons into the 24th SAMDPR or try to form a syndicate with your Club, Federation, Combine or National top flyers. Many fanciers from all over the world have scored in this prestigious race and in the 24th SAMDPR it could be your turn to hit the "JACKPOT" but first you have to enter some pigeons or be in it to win it. Once again, I am once again already looking forward to The 24th South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race.

Numerous "Loft Reports", "Updates", "Photographs" and "Videos" have been placed on the informative state of the art SAMDPR website for all to see and these are all available now on the dedicated website www.samdpr.com

Although the race is now named THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE, the total to be paid out in cash and prizes in the 2018/19 race series exceeds US\$2.2 Million American Dollars or approximately £1.76 Million Pounds Sterling. No other one-loft race in the world today can boast of such massive pay outs and this race is now in its twenty fourth year and has for the last twenty three year's paid out all of its projected prize money, that is why its reputation of this great race has increased, plus it has already paid out in the last twenty three races, prize money in excess of US\$42

Million American Dollars (£29 Million Pounds Sterling), which is a remarkable achievement in itself in one loft racing and one that the race organisers are very proud of. It should also be mentioned that the Prize Money and Awards in The 24th SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE will be slightly higher than as paid out for The 23rd SAMDPR. The FINAL RACE PRIZE MONEY paid out in the 23rd SAMDPR exceeded US\$1.02 Million American Dollars or around £816,000 Million Pounds Sterling.

All the United Kingdom Team fanciers/entrants and syndicate shareholders are all kept up to date with regular "INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE" and "NEWSLETTERS" plus any of them can log on to the state of the art The South African Million Dollar Race web site:- www.samdpr.com and get all the information they might require over the full race series. You can't change your pigeon's name/s once training has started. You can even put all your pedigrees on live if you wish to, which certainly helps with the final selling price at the auction after the race. Remember the 2008 SCMDPR OVERALL ACE PIGEON named BIRDY sold for a staggering world record £53,730 and the breeder receives 50% of this figure after expenses. This really is a state of the art race that continues to improve its overall image on an annual basis and gives all pigeon fanciers and entrants all the information they need to know about all the pigeons that are in the race loft. Winning SAMDPR pigeons over the last few years have fetched figures of US\$100,000 (£80,000). The pigeon that won 4th OPEN in the 23rd SAMDPR fetched a staggering ZAR1.3 MILLION SOUTH AFRICAN RANDS (US\$96,726), (£83,925) or £73,571 STERLING. Just think next year it could be your time to hit the JACKPOT.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT I am sorry that I can't add all the information about who bred all the pigeons or where they live because I do not have access to all this information so I can only publish details which I am in possession of at the time. If there are no details besides your winning pigeon/s then please contact me on reglofts@aol.com with your details and I will include these in my later International Press Reports. I personally do my best to give all the fanciers, entrants and breeders all the credit they and their pigeons deserve when they manage to get in the results so your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

It should be mentioned that GLOBAL & COUNTRY/REGIONAL NOMINATIONS during the 2015/16 race series actually paid out a staggering total of US\$546,280 (£437,000). In the Final Race a staggering US\$272,890 (£218,312) was up for grabs. Every year new figures are reached. What will it be in the 24th SAMDPR?

*****WHAT CAN NOW BE WON DURING THE 24th SAMDPR 2019/20 RACE SERIES.

The Prize Money for the FINAL RACE has been adjusted across the board with the top prizes increased. The total prize pay-out has also been increased. Prize monies for the 5 x HOT SPOT RACES, HOT SPOT ACE PIGEON and GRAND OVERALL AVERAGE winners have also been increased by a substantial amount. There will no longer be a New Motor Car for the first Activated Pigeon in the 5 x HOT SPOT RACES, now the winner will pick up a cool

US\$17,500 (£14,000), there will also be 19 other cash prizes with a graduating distribution from 2nd to 20th positions. Prizes, Nominations and Special Awards now add up to a staggering US\$2.2 Million American Dollars (£1.76 Million Pounds Sterling). There will be 5 x HOT SPOT RACES and each will now offer a massive US\$49,500 (£39,600) split up as follows:- 1st US\$17,500 (£14,000), 2nd US\$10,000 (£8,000), 3rd US\$5,000 (£4,000), 4th US\$2,500 (£2,000), 5th US\$2,000 (£1,600), 6th/10th US\$1,250 (£1,000) each, 11th/15th US\$750 (£600) each, 16th/20th US\$500 (£400) each. Also a HOT SPOT ACE PIGEON AWARD with US\$10,000 (£8,000) 1st prize for the best pigeon in these 5 x HOT SPOT RACES. A 2-BIRD AVERAGE COMPETITION and a US\$2,000 (£1,600) Cash Prize in each of the 5 x HOT SPOT RACES & THE FINAL RACE. A 3-BIRD AVERAGE COMPETITION and a US\$3,000 (£2,400) Cash Prize in each of the 5 x HOT SPOT RACES & THE FINAL RACE. THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR GRAND AVERAGE ACE PIGEON AWARD now carries US\$50,000 (£40,000) in Prize Money, split into three super cash prizes with 1st US\$25,000 (£20,000), 2nd US\$15,000 (£12,000) and 3rd US\$10,000 (£8,000) Cash Prizes for the 3 pigeons with the best Overall Average in all the Official Training Races over 50km (31 miles) and 5 x HOT SPOT RACES and THE FINAL RACE. There will also be a fantastic KNOCKOUT COMPETITION and US\$25,000 (£20,000) Prize Money, which starts on the HOT SPOT RACE 2 and the winner is the first one to be clocked in THE FINAL RACE (over the past few years there has been around 40/60 pigeons still left in this competition).

ALL THIS INCREASED PRIZE MONEY SHOULD ENCOURAGE FANCIERS TO ACTIVATE THEIR RESERVE PIGEONS BEFORE HOT SPOT RACE 1, WHICH OF COURSE GIVES THEM ALL THE EXTRA CHANCES TO WIN ANY OF THE SPECIAL BIGGER CASH PRIZES. There will also be 3 x COUNTRY CASH PRIZES of US\$125 (£100), US\$75 (£60) and US\$50 (£50) in each of the first 4 x HOT SPOT RACES (1 to 4). In the 5th HOT SPOT RACE US\$70 (£56) from every entry will be added to the starting Prize Money of US\$250 (£200) for the COUNTRY CHALLENGE. All the Prize Money will be paid out to the first three COUNTRY CHALLENGE entered pigeons in a ratio of 50%, 30% & 20%. The SAMDPR website will have an up to the date listing of which pigeons are entered and how much Prize Money will be flown for, plus and an ACE PIGEON COUNTRY CHALLENGE which will be won on THE FINAL RACE. There is an Entry Fee of US\$120 (£96) per pigeon to enter these COUNTRY CHALLENGE COMPETITIONS and this has to be paid for before the basketing for the 3rd HOT SPOT RACE. The COUNTRY CHALLENGE ACE PIGEON, all countries participating will be given a US\$200 (£160) starting Prize Money and US\$40 (£32) from each COUNTRY CHALLENGE entry fee goes to the "WINNER TAKES ALL" cash prize, which will be awarded to the first COUNTRY CHALLENGE pigeon which is clocked in THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON FINAL RACE. The pigeon that wins this award will be named the COUNTRY CHALLENGE ACE PIGEON. It should also be mentioned that during the 2016/17 race series the UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY CHALLENGE paid out £14,777 in PRIZE MONEY. Then in THE FINAL RACE on the 1st February 2020 there are also 10 MAGNIFICENT GOLD MEDALS to be won, worth well over US\$1,000 (£800) each and now over US\$1.40 Million American Dollars (£1.12 Million Pounds) in Prize Money & Nominations and 300 cash prizes being on offer. The Prize Money quoted above is at £1.25 Sterling

to the US\$ Dollar, this may of course change in the run up to THE FINAL RACE.

*****ENTRY FEES:- for THE 24th SAMDPR will remain at US\$1,000 (£880) per pigeon. This assists in increasing the prize monies as shown above as well as covers the cost of running the event and importing pigeons to the race. An initial entry fee of US\$1,850 (£1,480) per team of 4 pigeons will be charged and will be made up as follows:- US\$1,100 (£880) for the primary Activation and 3 non-refundable US\$250 (£200) deposits for each of the 3 Reserve Pigeons. Any Reserve Pigeons can then be entered into the SAMDPR at any stage by paying the balance of US\$850 (£680) per pigeon.

*****REFUNDS:- Refunds for lost paid up Reserve Pigeon will be changed to US\$750 (£600).

*****FREE ENTRIES:- Free Entries from the previous season will be honoured and no initial fee will be charged on a Free Team, however the deposit of US\$250 (£200) for each Reserve Pigeon needs to be paid when the pigeons are shipped. If any of the Reserve Pigeons need to be Activated, the entry fee of US\$850 (£680) will need to be paid.

THE ZANDY MEYER MEMORIAL MERCEDES BENZ CAR NOMINATION will have a US\$1,000 (approx. £800) entry fee and will also take place on THE FINAL RACE on SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2020 and the winning pigeon will win A BRAND NEW MERCEDES BENZ SLK 555 MOTOR CAR, worth a staggering US\$85,000 (approx. £68,000). (ONLY "ACTIVATED" PIGEONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR ANY OF THESE SPECIAL CASH PRIZES OR AWARDS). This new competition was very well supported in its first year and had over 160 entries and was so successful that it also paid out a staggering 2nd prize of US\$54,000 cash. Do not miss this fantastic opportunity to win a fabulous new car. The 19th SAMDPR attracted about 140 entries and two staggering prizes were once again won by two worthy winners. The 20th SAMDPR attracted over 100 entries and the US\$85,000 (£68,000) was won by Lloyd & Kelly from the UK, who actually won 37th OPEN in THE FINAL RACE. It was the first Activated pigeons and walked away with the top award. In The 21st SAMDPR Michael Mellor from Crewe was the runner-up for this prestigious award, with over 100 entries, which once again just goes to show that the UK pigeons will hold their own against the best pigeons in the world.

Something else worth mentioning that seven brand new motor cars have been won by fanciers representing the United Kingdom Team in the last few years, Robbie Prettejohn and Chris Gordon both won new motor cars during the 2005/6 race series and Paul & Dave McCarthy won one a new motor car during the 2006/7 series. During the 2011/12 race series fanciers from the United Kingdom won a staggering 3 x brand new motor cars and these were won by Nev & Angi Evans & Steve Cuthbert, Robert & Peter Montila and then Phil Bond. This in itself was an outstanding team performance. No other country has ever won three cars on the trot. The Irish fancier named John Nash also won a brand new motor car in the 2008/9 race series. I am hopeful that somebody from the United Kingdom or Ireland will also win one or maybe more brand new motor cars during the 2017/18 race series. GOOD LUCK TO ALL COMPETITORS. Fantastic news, ALISTAIR HOGG

has also won a BRAND NEW MOTOR CAR in HSCR2 in the 2017/18 race series. WELL DONE ALISTAIR.

I would also just like to notify fanciers that my weekly "INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE", "NEWSLETTERS" and "UPDATES" can now also be seen on the following pigeon web sites:-

www.regencylofts.com
www.iprr.co.uk
www.elimarpigeons.com
www.pigeonportal.com
www.pigeonglobe.co.uk
www.cyberpigeon.co.uk
www.pigeonbasics.com
www.starpigeons.com
www.pigeonpixels.co.uk
www.theloftreport.com
www.oneloftracing.com
www.pigeondigest.com
www.sapigeon.co.za
www.ukpigeonracing.co.uk
www.AvianExportServices.com
www.pigeonnetwork.com
www.toppigeon.co.za

plus of course they will also be published in the "BRITISH HOMING WORLD" and "THE RACING PIGEON" weeklies and many other international world pigeon publications for all to see, read and enjoy.

The race date for THE 24th SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE has now been finalised and confirmed by the race organisers and it will take place on SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2020. If you are interested in participating, helping us or acting a Country Race Team Co-ordinator/Shipper, then please telephone me as soon as possible on 01279-812005 or my mobile 07860-568216 or SMS or email on reglofts@aol.com and I will give you all the information you require.

*****SHIPPING DATE FOR THE 24th SAMDPR:- This year there will only be one shipping date and the pigeons will leave my home on SUNDAY 19th MAY 2019. Please try to get your pigeons to me either delivered by a Pigeon Courier or by hand before 14.00 on SUNDAY 19th MAY 2019. I strongly recommend that your pigeons are old enough to travel and that they are vaccinated against PMV at least 8/10 days before your send or deliver them to me. Please confirm with me how and when your pigeons will be arriving with me. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any queries, questions about any aspect of THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE, then please contact me as soon as possible on 01279-812005 or my mobile 07860-568216 or by SMS or email at reglofts@aol.com and I will do my best to answer any of your questions or queries about this great race.

These "INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASES" do take a lot of my time to prepare and I try to get as much into them as possible as I know fanciers and entrants like to know what is happening, unfortunately some time, some information will not always be to hand when the print deadline is reached so can't be included in that report. I can only apologise if I leave something or somebody out but I can assure everybody that I do my best to get as much information as possible to put into each of these international reports and give credit to those that deserve it.

IF ANY PIGEON FANCIER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR IN FACT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MY WEEKLY "INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASES", "NEWSLETTERS" AND "UPDATES" BY EMAIL, THEN ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS EMAIL ME THEIR ACTUAL EMAIL ADDRESS I WILL PUT THEM ON MY EMAIL DATABASE AND I WILL THEN FORWARD THEM ALL THE INFORMATION BY EMAIL ON A REGULAR BASIS.

It would very remiss of me not to mention this great pigeon bred by Chris Turner & Debbie Neale from Coventry, which achieved the following race results



'Pebbles'.

through the 2018/2019 series:- 260th, 768th, 259th, 1302nd, 172nd HSCR1, 238th, 263rd, 23rd HSCR2, 298th, 72nd HSCR3, 213rd, 508th, 36th HSCR4, 207th, 345th, 1226th HSCR5, 176th, 188th, 18th then 877th FINAL RACE. She also won 1st UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY

CHALLENGE in HSCR2 & 4 with 7th in HSCR1 and 3rd in HSCR3. She also won \$9,325 (£7,460) in Global Nominations and she also held onto the 1st OPEN HOT SPOT OVERALL AVERAGES, the 1st OPEN UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY CHALLENGE AVERAGES & 1st OPEN OVERALL GRAND AVERAGES during the race series. It is now up for auction and should fetch a tidy sum. WELL DONE TO CHRIS & DEBBIE FOR BREEDING THIS LITTLE GEM.

SPECIAL THANKS must go to my thirteen-year old grandson Harrison McGrath for assisting me with the photographs in this International Press Release, he just loves getting onto my computer and helping me out.

If you wish to know any more information on this prestigious international pigeon race please contact me ASAP or request a Presentation Pack which will give you all the information you require about entering this great race:-

Paul Smith, United Kingdom Race Team Co-ordinator/Shipper and International Race Co-ordinator for The 23rd South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race, which took place at Heron Banks Golf & River Estate and Emerald Resort, Casino & Hotel, South Africa on Saturday 2nd February 2019. Regency Lofts Limited, 2, Highmead, off Coltsfield, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex. CM24 8LJ. England. Tel/Fax:- 01279-812005. (Int. Code:- +44-1279-812005). Mobile:- 07860-568216. Email Address:- reglofts@aol.com Regency Lofts Website:- www.regencylofts.com Skype Address:- talbot7944 Twitter Address:- PaulSmith@SmithReglofts

The South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race Website:- www.samdpr.com

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There will be about 20/25 races during the 2019/20 race series & this will include 5 x HOT SPOT RACES & THE FINAL RACE.

The 5 x HOT SPOT RACES offers US\$247,500 (£198,000) in 100 top Cash Prizes.

6 x US\$2,000 (£1,600) 2-Bird Average Cash Prize in the 5 x Hot Spot Races & The Final Race.

6 x US\$3,000 (£2,400) 3-Bird Average Cash Prize in the 5 x Hot Spot Races & The Final Race.

US\$50,000 (£40,000) Overall Grand Average Competition with 3 super Cash Prizes of

1st US\$25,000 (£20,000), 2nd US\$15,000 (£12,000) & 3rd US\$10,000 (£8,000).

A 1st US\$10,000 (£8,000) Hot Spot Race Ace Pigeon Award.

Also 1st US\$25,000 (£20,000) Knockout Competition Cash Prize.

Plus, there are 3 x Country Challenge Cash Prizes in each of the 5 x Hot Spot Races and also a 1st Country Challenge Cash Prize winner in The Final Race. Entry Fee for this competition is US\$120 (approx. £96 per pigeon).

IF YOUR PIGEONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE REWARDS ARE MASSIVE WITH 300 CASH PRIZES AND US\$1.40 MILLION AMERICAN DOLLARS (£1.12 MILLION POUNDS STERLING) TO BE WON IN THE FINAL RACE,

WITH A STAGGERING 1st PRIZE OF US\$300,000 AMERICAN DOLLARS (£240,000).

(The figures quoted above are on an exchange rate of US\$1.25 to the Pound Sterling).

THE PRIZE MONEY HAS BEEN GREATLY INCREASED FOR THE 24th SANDPR.

*******NEW RULE*******

THE INITIAL ENTRY FEE WILL NOW BE US\$1,850 (£1,480) PER TEAM OF 4 PIGEONS. A TEAM WILL CONSIST OF YOUR NUMBER ONE PIGEON AND YOUR THREE RESERVE PIGEONS WITH A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF US\$250 (£200) EACH FOR YOUR THREE RESERVE PIGEONS. YOUR RESERVE PIGEONS CAN BE ACTIVATED AT ANY TIME FOR US\$850 (£680) EACH.

THE CURRENT ESTIMATED COST OF ENTERING A TEAM OF 4 PIGEONS (ONE PRIMARY & THREE RESERVES) INCLUDING ALL SHIPPING/EXPORT COSTS AND EXPORT/IMPORT PERMITS IS CURRENTLY ABOUT £1,610 STERLING.

HOWEVER, THIS FIGURE MAY ALTER SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON THE EXCHANGE RATE AT THE TIME OF SHIPPING.

This year there will be only one shipping date and the pigeons will leave my home on **SUNDAY 19th MAY 2019**. Please try to get your pigeons to me either delivered by a Pigeon Courier Company or by hand before 14.00 on **SUNDAY 19th MAY 2019**.

I strongly recommend that your pigeons are old enough to travel and that they have been vaccinated against PMV at least 8/10 days before you send them or deliver them to me.

Once again the United Kingdom Race Team performed exceptionally well during the 2018/19 race series.

The United Kingdom Race Team has had some remarkable performances since this race first started, including 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 6th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 10th, 11th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th OPEN, they have also won 7 x Brand New Motor Cars, plus also winning the Zandy Meyer Memorial Car Nomination.

A SUPERB PRESENTATION PACK IS AVAILABLE, JUST CALL ME OR EMAIL ME, I WILL FORWARD ONE TO YOU STRAIGHT AWAY. PLEASE CALL ME TODAY AND TELL ME HOW MANY PIGEONS YOU WISH TO ENTER AND WHAT DATE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHIP.

Apply with confidence to:

Paul Smith,

United Kingdom Race Team Co-ordinator/Shipper & International Race Co-ordinator,

The 24th South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race,

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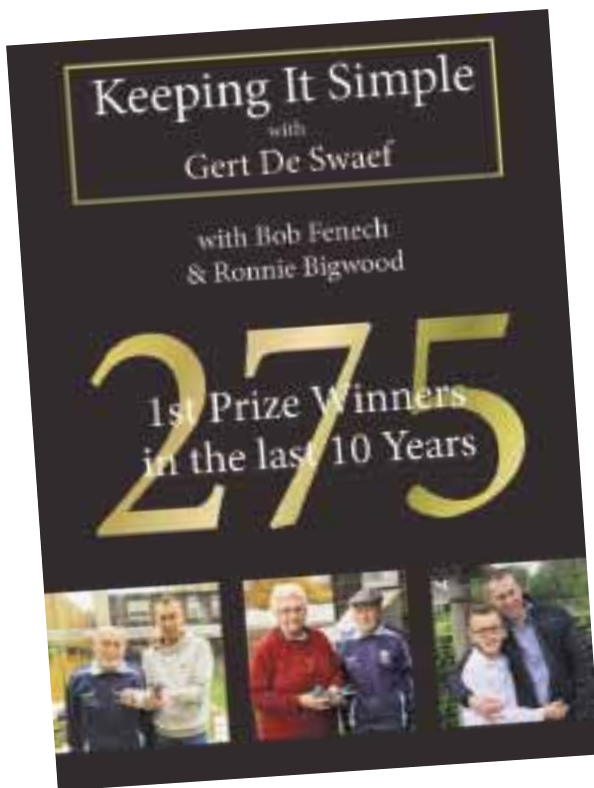
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